

REFLECTION FOR FOR THE 17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

This Sunday, we can see that the central theme of the readings is prayer, which is entering into dialogue with God. Every believer makes prayer one of the pillars of their faith. Jesus often spoke to his disciples about the importance of prayer and prayed for long hours, often alone, on the mountain, in the silence of the night. This impressed his disciples so much that one day they asked him to teach them how to pray. And Jesus taught us the 'Our Father.'

Today, we read this prayer in the Gospel, according to the tradition of Saint Luke. Jesus taught us the 'Our Father' not only to teach us a prayer, but also to teach how we should pray to God.

First of all, we must pray with the confidence of children, which is why Jesus teaches us to address God as 'Father', a kind Father whose kingdom we want to be established among us; a Father whom we ask to give us our daily bread; to forgive us our sins and give us the ability to forgive one another; not to abandon us in temptation. And Jesus insists greatly on perseverance in prayer, that we pray always, always, always... with insistence and without fear of addressing God, like Abraham, as the first reading tells us.

In the first reading, the Word of God teaches us to pray like Abraham: with trust in God, without losing heart and praying for one another. Abraham prays with extraordinary trust in the Lord; he prays for the people of the cities that the Lord intended to punish because of their sins. And God hears Abraham, revealing a merciful Father's heart. Let us also pray with complete trust, opening our hearts without fear to the Lord, while at the same time showing our charity towards our brothers and sisters by praying for one another.

The Word of God that we have heard teaches us that our prayer must be made with confidence, perseverance and charity.

This trust in God has its great foundation in Jesus Christ, as St Paul tells us in the second reading. In him we were baptised, made participants in his death and resurrection. In him we find life and life in abundance. In him our sins have been forgiven through his death on the cross. May he be our guide, the light that leads us on the path of life. With him, let us learn to pray to the Lord our God as children, without faltering, cultivating love for God and for our brothers and sisters.

AMEN