

Twenty Ninth Sunday In Ordinary Time 2019

My beloved brothers and sisters, there have been many times in my priestly life when I have met people who rarely go to mass, and rarely pray, and then become angry with God, because He did not answer their prayers. In this Gospel, Jesus has concluded a conversation with the Pharisees, and he basically tells them and is telling us that we are weak prayers!

In His conversation with them, they have asked Him when the Kingdom of God will finally come; no doubt, Jesus detected a note of impatience behind their question, as if they were criticizing God for being less diligent than their expectations. They fail to recognize that the initiation of the Kingdom has begun in the very person of Jesus, who exhibits all of the signs of the Expected Messiah in His preaching and in His miracles- they fail to see, because they have hardened their hearts to the works of God because of their expectations. The problem is, they expect too little of God- and so do we. I cannot tell you how often now I encounter people who are discouraged about all of the present chaos in the society and in the Church- as if God has given up on us!

We give up on God too easily, whether in our personal lives, or in the unfolding of the mystery of the Kingdom of God. God's ways are not our ways, He is not bound by our timing! He always hears our prayers, but He acts according to His Divine Providence, which is always for the good!

Jesus calls us to approach God with the attitude of the widow, because God is not at all like the impersonal and unjust judge in His parable. The widow will not give up, nor can we! Behind our lack of confidence in God, is a tendency to doubt God; we think that just because He does not answer our prayer in the way that we expect, He isn't answering at all! This basically shows a lack of trust in the Divine Providence. Jesus is calling us to have an unyielding faith and unlimited trust and confidence in the God of unlimited love and mercy!

No prayer of ours is every unheard, God longs for us to tell Him our deepest needs. He wants us to talk to Him about our needs, and to never, ever give up. He wants us to trust Him enough to ask Him unceasingly for everything we need,

and, He always answers our prayer- sometimes the answer is “no, I have something better in mind for you. Trust me!” So, Jesus tells us: “Pray always without becoming weary!” Be constant in your prayer, but also be constant in your thanksgiving, constant in your repentance, constant in your praise and constant in your Adoration- your radical self-surrender to the Divine Will. Bring to Him even the smallest of things, He wants to hear from you, but always come with a loving trust in His Divine Fatherhood!