

PRAYER: GOD'S UNIVERSAL CALL TO FRIENDSHIP

Based on Chapter 35, "God Calls Us to Pray,"
(United States Catholic Catechism for Adults, pages 461-480)



I. Lesson of Faith (taken from page 462)

The Prayer Leader reads the excerpt from "Treasures in Clay" (page 462) and then invites a short period of shared reflection on the following:

In "The Hour that Made His Day" Archbishop Fulton Sheen shared the secret source for the inspiration and zeal of his priesthood.

What experiences can you share of the effect of Eucharistic Adoration on your parish/ apostolate/ people whom you know?

II. From the Catechism (taken from page 469)

The Prayer Leader invites personal response and gratitude with the following summary thought.

By our active participation in the liturgy, the prayer of the Church, we encounter the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, who impart to us the gift of salvation. Spiritual writers tell us our heart can be an altar of adoration and praise. Prayer internalizes the liturgy both during and after its celebration (cf. CCC 2655).

III. Meditation - Matthew 6:7-13.

*The Reader proclaims the Gospel and then allows for a moment of silence.
The Reader then prays the General Intercessions.*

IV. Response (based on Doctrinal Statements on pages 478-479)

Reader: Our response is: *Lord, teach us to pray.*

"Prayer is the response of faith to the free promise of salvation and also a response of love to the thirst of the only Son of God" (*Response*) (CCC 2561).

God constantly searches for us. Our restless hearts seek him, though sin often masks and frustrates this desire. (*Response*)

Jesus taught his disciples “to pray with a purified heart, with lively and persevering faith, with filial boldness.” He called them to vigilance and invited them “to present their petitions to God in his name.” (*Response*)
(CCC 2621)

Christian prayer is always Trinitarian. The sweep of our prayer moves us toward the Father, but access to the Father is through Jesus Christ. Therefore we also address our prayer to Christ, through the Holy Spirit, the interior teacher of Christian prayer. (*Response*)

Prayer requires humility, trust, and perseverance in order to battle temptations that cast doubt on the usefulness or even the possibility of prayer. (*Response*)
(CCC 2726-2753)

V. For Discussion (based on page 478)

*The Prayer Leader introduces the discussion questions to groups of two or three.
Groups discuss for 3-5 minutes.*

Is some form of meditation a regular practice in your life?
How would you help others to form the habit of meditation?
How do you maintain a bond between prayer and active Catholic mission to others?

As a conclusion to the discussion period, the Prayer Leader may read the “Meditation” section on page 479: “I Shall Keep the Silence of My Heart” by Blessed Teresa of Calcutta.

VI. Prayer - Psalm 42:2-3 (*Pray together*)

As the deer longs for streams of water,
So my soul longs for you, O God.
My being thirsts for God, the living God.
When can I go and see the face of God?



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