

Lord, Teach Me To Pray

Three-Part Ignatian Prayer Series for Women and Men

LTMTTP for Men!

This past fall Carol and Fr. Marty, with consultation from a number of people, revised Part 1 of the LTMTTP series so that it would be appropriately adapted for use by men. As we entered the New Year (2011), men were included in the January Facilitator Training-Retreats in New Orleans and in Mandan, North Dakota (Brrrrrrrr!).

We are happy to report that a Part 1 group for Men completed its final session at St. Pius X Parish in New Orleans in mid-April. We hope to hear some news from the North Dakota tundra in the near future about the initial sessions for men in that part of the country.

As we move toward the summer, Part 2 will be revised and adapted so that the men who have completed Part 1 can go on to pray and facilitate Part 2. Soon thereafter, Part 3 will also be revised and adapted for men.

The Holy Father's Monthly General Intention

(published by the Apostleship of Prayer at
www.apostleshipofprayer.org)

April 2011: Evangelizing the New Generations. That through its compelling preaching of the Gospel, the Church may give young people new reasons for life and hope.

May 2011: Communication Media. That those working in communication media may respect the truth, solidarity and dignity of all people.

June 2011: Priests. That priests, united to the Heart of Christ, may always be true witnesses to the caring and merciful love of God.

VERITAS

They Threw Him Under the Chariot!

“So do not be ashamed of your testimony to our Lord, nor of me, a prisoner for his sake; but bear your share of hardship for the gospel with the strength that comes from God. He saved us and called us to a holy life, not according to our works but according to his own design and the grace bestowed on us in Christ Jesus before time began, but now made manifest through the appearance of our savior Christ Jesus, who destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, for which I was appointed preacher and apostle and teacher. On this account I am suffering these things; but I am not ashamed, for I know him in whom I have believed and am confident that he is able to guard what has been entrusted to me until that day.” (2 Timothy 1:8-12).

There is a big difference between knowing “about” someone and actually knowing someone. While imprisoned in Rome toward the end of his apostolic ministry, St. Paul writes to the younger Timothy (who was probably in Ephesus) encouraging him not to be ashamed of him, of the Gospel message, or of Jesus Christ himself. If we were to read a few verses further, we would learn that, with a few exceptions, it seems that Paul’s fellow Christians in Asia had distanced themselves from him and failed to come to his aid. In today’s popular lingo we could say that when the pressure was on, they didn’t hesitate to “throw him under the bus” (or in first century lingo, “under the chariot”).

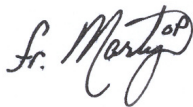
Paul is encouraging Timothy to resist such pressure, to draw upon the strength that comes from God and to bear his share of hardship for the Gospel. From the moment Paul was knocked to the ground in a flash of light on the road to Damascus and encountered Jesus himself, he never wavered. He experienced virtually every kind of abuse, misfortune, hardship and suffering imaginable, yet he was never ashamed of his situation, nor did it ever occur to him to throw Jesus “under the chariot”. As others

distanced themselves, why was St. Paul so steadfast? It seems he was a very strong and determined person, even before his conversion; and he had great strength of character and natural enthusiastic zeal. Yet, while he was blessed with these admirable human traits and more, neither any one of these traits nor all of them combined can explain his faithful steadfastness in the face of such hardship.

St. Paul gives us the answer in verse 12: “. . . but I am not ashamed for I know him in whom I have believed . . .” He knows Jesus. He does not merely know “about” Jesus. He actually met the risen Jesus Christ on the road to Damascus. He encountered the One “who destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light”. Paul heard Jesus speak to him and was personally appointed by him to be a preacher and apostle and teacher.

Do you sometimes feel that same pressure that the early Christians felt? Do you find yourself questioning why you can't be stronger in standing up for Jesus? Do you shrink back a bit or feel ashamed of your “simple faith” around your co-workers or even around some family members and friends; maybe around your own grown kids? Do you find yourself lamenting your weak human strength? Well, don't go running to the self-help aisle of your local bookstore in an effort to improve yourself. Run to Jesus! Run to Jesus, risen and alive in the Word and in your very midst. Run to Jesus, alive and truly present body, blood, soul and divinity in the Blessed Sacrament! Beg him for the grace of Ignatian contemplation; for the grace to enter into the Gospel scene to be with him; for the grace to encounter him and to come to truly know him. You will know when you begin to really know him when, like St. Paul, no amount of pressure, fear, hardship or suffering will cause you to throw Jesus “under the chariot”! That “option” will no longer even occur to you.

Gratefully in the Love of the Risen Lord,



Rev. friar Marty Gleeson, O.P.
Spiritual Advisor to LTMTTP



Contributors:
Carol Weiler, *LTMTTP Director*
Fr. Marty Gleeson, O.P.,
Spiritual Advisor
Dianne Caverly, *Editor*



I H S

THANK YOU!

“I am sure of this much: that he who has begun the good work in you will carry it through to completion, right up to the day of Christ Jesus. It is only right that I should entertain such expectations in your regard since I hold all of you dear.....God himself can testify how much I long for each of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. My prayer is that your love may more and more abound, both in understanding and wealth of experience, so that with a clear conscience and blameless conduct you may learn to value the things that really matter up to the day of Christ. It is my wish that you may be found rich in the harvest of justice which Jesus Christ has ripened in you, to the glory and praise of God.”

I use the words of St. Paul which he wrote to his disciples in Philippi to thank you for your devotion to your faith in Christ Jesus in spite of all the sacrifices and struggles involved in your facilitating LTMTTP for 2010-2011. Much has been asked of each of you in time and faithfulness. It is together that we serve untiringly our Good God for the

salvation of souls. It is in God whom we trust for all the graces we need to persevere in helping other souls "to know and to love" our Lord Jesus Christ more and more. How surprised you will be one day to see the countless ripples of souls your facilitating made possible for the Holy Spirit to ignite within a great fire of love for Christ Jesus. I will be praying for you over the summer months asking our Lord to renew and strengthen your desire to make our Lord and King, Jesus Christ, passionately loved in the hearts of all people. Let us pray constantly for one another and encourage each other to an even greater generosity in facilitating LTMTTP for 2011-2012! We must not allow ourselves to stop for our King desires to return soon and we want to be sure all hearts are prepared for His coming. Thank you for your faithfulness in facilitating LTMTTP.

*Grace and peace be with you all
who so passionately love our
Lord Jesus Christ with unfailing love.*

Carol Weiler

Do you have questions about facilitating?
Comments to share with other facilitators?
Send them to carolweiler@cox.net.
Technical problems with the newsletter? Change of
email address? Contact caverlyd@cox.net.

Answers to your Questions

Question: Is it necessary for a newly trained facilitator to team up with an experienced facilitator the first time she or he facilitates?

Fr. Marty's Answer: As we know, once we go through the training (either a Training-Retreat or the "Hands-On Training" method) we are ready to facilitate. Think about it: when LTMTTP begins in a new area of the country, the first group of trained facilitators pray the series for the first time and facilitate the series for the first time before having any experience. And it works! Is it normal to be a bit nervous the first time we facilitate? I was! Do we get more comfortable facilitating the more we do it? Of course we do! But let us never forget that the reason we are able to do this at all is because it is indeed the Lord who is doing everything. So I want to truly encourage you; and once you are a trained facilitator you are ready for God to use you!

Question: In the first session of Part 1 (Praying Christian Virtues) there is a *Consecration to Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary* (1F-4). My co-facilitator and I are not sure if we are to lead the whole group in this consecration, or if we facilitators are to pray this privately. Our confusion stems from the paragraph immediately before the consecration prayer which says "We invite all to join in prayer...?"

Carol's Answer: Thank you for your question; and we are sorry for the confusion. The *Consecration to Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary* on page 1F-4 is to be prayed privately by the facilitators. Please make a note to that effect in your facilitator manual.