

The clergy speak out

BY FATHER V. J. MORGAN
ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH



In considering, talking with God, which is prayer, let us consider daily prayer in its true and its logicalness, necessity and benefits.

To sustain the human body and to keep it healthy and active we have to eat food, and not just once a week or once a month or only every several months or just occasionally but regularly each and every day, and not only once a day but several times a day. If we fail to do so we soon become weak and inactive and soon succumb to death.

Also it is important that we eat the right kind of food that agrees with our physical condition. For example, if one has indigestion or stomach troubles, a dietetic diet. Our body food must also be properly masticated and digested. And we know we should not eat our food too fast.

Now if these conditions are logical and necessary for our bodily welfare, the same holds good for our spiritual welfare, the food of our soul, which is daily prayer. "Talking with God" - associating ourselves with God daily in adoration, veneration, thanksgiving and petition.

Prayer is a voice from the depths of the heart and there is nothing more sublime on earth than a pure heart filled with love and charity. Prayer is the language in which the heart speaks to God, and takes it lovingly to His own heart. There is nothing more moving or more sublime than this loving attention on the part of the Eternal Father to the feeble supplications of His children.

True prayer is prayer in the Holy Spirit. There is nothing more new inspiring or more sublime than this voice of the Spirit, at which eternity trembles.

The highest heaven and the lowest hell, when on the wings of prayer, the feeble words of the creature are carried to the throne of the Creator. The voice of human supplication reaches to the heights whence dwells the majesty of God in eternal bliss. He who has truly understood what a sublime thing prayer is, must be stricken with awe, indeed, when he is about to pray.

How then can prayer be an every day business, compatible with the monotony, uniformity, depression and dullness of our hearts, so tired and desiccated? Yet there must be something like prayer in everyday life for the Scripture says that we ought always to pray and not to faint (Lk. 18:1). St. Paul admonishes us to "pray at all times in the Spirit" (Eph. 6:18) to "pray without ceasing" (1 Thess. 5:17) and to be "instant in prayer" (Rom. 12:12).

To pray daily means both to pray in everyday life and to make everyday life our prayer. This first direction to daily prayer - we should be regular in prayer without regard to our humors or moods, that is from an innate sense of duty or a cheerful tradition, such as morning prayer on rising or before retiring, prayer of blessing and thanksgiving before and after meals.

The daily ringing of the Angelus Bell at 7 a.m., 12 noon and 6 p.m. is not only to give us the time of day but to call us to prayer. The regular Sunday or weekday service at our parish church where prayers are said both individually and collectively. The attentive listening to the reading of the Bible and carrying home with us the lesson of the epistle or gospel given to us to put into practice for that week or even the rest of our lives.

All of these are essentially prayer in everyday life. Our visits to the House of God, where we can meditate and pray in silence without interruption or distraction. By placing before us at times the crucifix, to remind us of Christ's death for our redemption. The attentive listening to the reading of the Bible and carrying home with us the lesson of the epistle or gospel given to us to put into practice for that week or even the rest of our lives.

Each form of daily prayer cannot be practiced or used for many years. They are labors in childhood by good example of good parents and still persist. They may have become lost for some because mind and heart are far away from what they are saying. Instead of speaking heart to heart as God they recite mere formulas.

Everyday prayer must not become a superficial, mechanical stiched lip-service to be gotten through as quickly as possible in order to get back to more pleasant things. Such forms of prayers would be conceding to God time grudgingly. God alone knows our hearts - we should, therefore, pray with a loving heart to Him. In praying one's heart should enter into lofty words of adoration, praise, thanks, petition and contrition which are the subjects of prayer. One should have a willingness to pray in recognition of all one has received from God and to show our appreciation for His daily blessings.

Our prayers should not be restricted only to times of disaster, war, famine, sickness or just before death. We need God's help and blessings daily, and for these we should pray daily.

A further reason for prayer in everyday life is the honor of God. God is the Lord not only of the holy days of life. He should be glorified also in what appears to us the insignificant incidents of our life. We see His servants not only in lofty cathedrals whose architecture is a masterpiece of art and science, but in the fields tilling the soil, or the workshop, at the desk or at the workbench. All this is for the glory of His name.

We belong to God in every department of our lives. Therefore, no matter what department we are assigned to work, that work can be offered for the greater glory and honor of God.

Our soul cannot continue its weary way on the road followed endlessly by the pretense with its insupportable trifles, its gossamer and pretence, its curiosity and vanity. Our soul seems to remain in the market place where from all quarters the hawkers congregate to sell the petty goods of the world and whereas stultifying restlessness, man wanders about offering their trifles.

Our soul in daily life seems to be a gigantic bear into which cartoon after cartoon is brought day by day, until it is filled to overflowing with mundane things. There is no end in sight. One day after the other, we go in this way to the hour of our death, when all the goods and chattels which we call our life, will be swept away in dismay, unless we make everyday life our prayer.

It is of supreme importance to escape from this empty routine. Through the busyness of our daily life we must find our way to Him who alone is necessary to Him Who alone is the Lord. Our everyday life must become a hymn of praise, indeed it must become in itself prayer.

It is obvious that we cannot pray directly all the time. We cannot escape our daily routine, because it will go with us wherever we go. Everyday life is our life and everyday heart, our weary mind and our weary body, which absorb all that is great, will ever remain with us.

God must be sought and found in the things of our world. By regarding our daily duties as something performed for the honor and glory of God, we can convert what was hitherto soul-killing monotony, to a living worship of God in all our actions. Everyday life must become itself our prayer.

And to do this we must make our everyday life a prayer through unselfishness and love, if we are willing and understanding. There are the long and monotonous hours of work for which often no recognition is given, the continuous and painful struggle which receives little reward, the weariness and the sacrifice of old age, disappointment and failure, adversity and misunderstanding.

There are the many wishes denied to us, the many small humiliations and the equally frequent inconsideration of youth. There are such things as physical discomfort, the inclemency of the elements, the friction of human contacts.

Through these and a thousand other trials in which everyday life abounds, man can learn to become calm and unselfish, if he only understands these humiliations, understand and put them to rest. And can, therefore, make his everyday life his prayer.

Square dancers join city group

With not enough members to make the evenings consistently successful, members of Acton's Pairs and Squares square dance club decided this fall to go to Guelph to join the group there. Every other Thursday evening, the Acton dancers now travel to Guelph where a larger group makes more enjoyment and variety in the dancing.

Y's Menettes plan book sale

Y's Menettes made plans for a book sale in November at their meeting Monday, Mrs. C. L. Rognvaldson, the hostess for the meeting, showed slides of Europe. The regional convention at Owen Sound was discussed. Mrs. John Bowmans, the president, chaired the meeting and roll call was answered with one cent per inch of waistline. Mrs. W. D. E. Smith led in prayer. Mrs. Stewart Robertson won the door prize, writing paper and envelopes.

FACTS to explain work of United Church

Facing the Action of the Church in Today's Society, a colourful and engaging presentation of the total work of the United Church of Canada throughout the world is to be presented at Wellington Square United Church, Burlington, on Sunday, October 19 during the afternoon and evening. Facts will be seen. Facts will be heard. An opportunity to share in the vision of the church for the future will be there. At no other time and place has such a comprehensive portrayal of the work of the church been given. The churches of the Halton Presbytery will do the presentations, assisted by the General Council Executive and the Board of Evangelism and Social Service.

Anniversary gift complete surprise

For their 25th wedding anniversary, the surprise gift parked all around their home and friends and relatives were all gleefully waiting inside to welcome the Bowers, extend congratulations and urge them to hurry and open their gift. Visitors were there from Tottenham, Aurora, Keswick, Guelph and Toronto as well as the district.

Mrs. Albert Young funeral September 26

A resident of Halton Centennial Manor since September 24, 1962, Mrs. Albert Young passed away on September 24, 1969, after a lengthy illness. Mary Williamson, sole surviving member of a family of seven of the late David and Elizabeth Williamson, was born in Nassagaways on Nov. 29, 1880. On March 15, 1905 the married Mrs. Albert Young and settled on a farm in Erin Township where they farmed for 25 years before moving to Acton. Mrs. Young, predeceased by her husband, is survived by sons George, Acton and Fred of Willowdale, daughters Emily (Mrs. George Wallace), Jessie (Mrs. Bing Ramsden) and Mary (Mrs. Max Storey), all of R. R. 4, Rockwood. There are eight grandchildren. Also surviving are

Harvest festival dinner at St. Alban's

In a church beautifully decorated with fruit, vegetables and flowers, parishioners of St. Alban's attended Harvest Thanksgiving festival services Sunday at 9 and 10:30 a.m. The decorating had been done by the Altar Guild.

Special music by the choir included the anthem Praise the Lord O Jerusalem, and the Rev. H. Dawson preached a timely sermon. For the second year in succession the parish had its Thanksgiving family dinner, and it's hoped this will become an annual event. About 130 attended paying a nominal cost. The A.C.W. prepared the meal. Afterwards there were films; Jim Frizzell played the electric guitar and sang, and a group of Sunday School juniors put on a play about the pilgrims.

Highlight of the evening was the amusing auction of the fruits and vegetables used in decoration. Syd Newton had the help of George Haggitt in making the sales.

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THURS.-FRI.-SAT. OCT. 9-11
DAY OF THE EVIL GUN (Color)
(GLENN FORD)
BATTLE BENEATH EARTH (Color)
(KERWIN MATHESW)

SUN.-MON.-TUES. OCT. 12-14
IF IT'S TUES; THIS MUST BE BELGIUM
(Suzanne Pleshette) (ADULT) (Color)
LAND OF 1000 FACES
NOTRE DAME (Cartoon)

WED.-THURS.-FRI.-SAT. OCT. 15-18 (4 DAYS)
Show Times Sept 17 & 18 will be 6:30 p.m. & 9 p.m.
ICE STATION ZEBRA (Color)
ROCK HUDSON
GUIDED MOUSE ISLE (Cartoon)

Free Press Church Notices

CHURCHILL COMMUNITY CHURCH
Churchill Road North
Minister:
The Rev. A. Walker Fosbury, B.A., B.D.
124 Tilday Ave. Phone 853-2386

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12th, 1969
Thanksgiving Sunday
11:00 a.m.—Worship and Church School.
Sermon subject, "Be Thankful."
Visitors are welcome at all church gatherings at the Church on the Hill.

ACTON BAPTIST CHURCH
Founded 1842

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12th, 1969
9:45 a.m.—Sunday School.
11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship.
Speaker, Mr. James Bell, Brampton, Ont.
7:30 p.m.—Hillsburgh Baptist Anniversary.
Wednesday, 7:30 — Prayer and Bible Study at Feltham's apartment.
Thursday, 8:00 — Choir rehearsal.
Friday, 7:00 — B.H.F.
All Welcome

BETH-EL CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH
Minister — Rev. P. Brouwer, B.A., B.D.
Acton, Ontario

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12th, 1969
10:00 a.m.—Morning Worship Service.
Nursery and pre-school Sunday School.
11:10 a.m.—Sunday School.
4:00 p.m.—Afternoon Worship Service.
7:30 p.m.—Teen Meet at the church.
Tuesday evening, 7:30-10:30 — Catechism Classes.
Come, worship and study with us to be better equipped to serve God and men.
Everyone Welcome

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA KNOX CHURCH, ACTON
Rev. Andrew H. McKenzie, B.A., B.D.
Minister
Mr. E. A. Hansen, B.A.
Organist and Choir Master

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12th, 1969
Thanksgiving Sunday
9:45 a.m.—Church School for ages 3 to 15 years.
11:00 a.m.—Thanksgiving Divine Service.
Sermon theme, "The Sacrifice of Thanksgiving and Its Merit."
Everyone Meet Welcome

EVANGEL PENTECOSTAL TABERNACLE
P.A.O.C. 33 Churchill Road
Rev. S. M. Thoman, Pastor, 853-2715.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12th, 1969
10:00 a.m.—Sunday School.
11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship.
7:00 p.m.—Evangelistic Service.
Tuesday, 8 p.m.—Prayer Service and Bible Study.
Thursday, 8 p.m.—Christ Ambassadors.
Psalm 119, verse 1 — "Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the Lord."

MAPLE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH
81 Maple Ave., Georgetown
Pastor: Rev. Robert C. Lohnes

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12th, 1969
Here is our sincere invitation to the whole family to attend church.
9:45 a.m.—Sunday School. All ages.
11:00 a.m.—Morning Service.
7:00 p.m.—Evening Evangel.
Georgetown 877-6645

THE CHURCH OF ST. ALBAN THE MARTYR ANGLICAN
Corner Willow St. and St. Alban's Drive
Rev. H. J. Dawson, B.A., B.Th.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12th, 1969
Thanksgiving Sunday
Trinity XIX
9:00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist.
10:30 a.m.—Church School and Nursery.
10:30 a.m.—Mattins.

TRINITY UNITED CHURCH
Minister:
The Rev. Gordon B. Turner, B.A., B.D.
Director of Music:
Dr. George Elliott, M.A., Ph.D.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12th, 1969
Thanksgiving Sunday
10:00 a.m.—Corporate Worship.
Sermon, "Let's be honest! Is there anything we can really be thankful to God for?"
10:00 a.m.—Nursery.
Sunday School (to Grade 4).
11:00 a.m.—Sunday School (Grade 5-8).
11:15 a.m.—"Talk Back" (adult program of dialogues with the Minister).
7:00 p.m.—Hi C. and Hi 9ers (Youth Groups for Teens — alternating Sunday evenings).
We Welcome You and Your Family to Take Part in the Life and Worship of Trinity

Free Press Personals

Mr. James Small, of Waterloo University, visited with his grandmother, Mrs. R. M. MacDonald last week.

A busload of trippers enjoyed a trip through several Ontario counties Tuesday, to see the fall coloring. The trip was sponsored by the Golden Age Club.

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Park, Cathy, Steven and Kenneth, Petrolia, and Mrs. Mervin Hilliard of Guelph visited at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Landsborough.

Friends are sorry to learn Mr. Reg Hoare had an operation in Toronto Western Hospital on Tuesday, and hope for a speedy return to good health.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Reed of Oak Ridges visited in town last week. He is the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Reed, of Acton.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Taylor of Orillia were weekend visitors at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Rognvaldson. Miss Nancy Rognvaldson was home from Calgary for her graduation from the University of Guelph.

Mr. and Mrs. Norman Waterton, of Owen Sound, spent the weekend with their cousins, Mr. and Mrs. G. S. Matthews.

Mr. Thys de Haan left last Thursday, Oct. 2 after spending three months working in and around Acton. Mr. Thys de Haan is an agricultural student from Friesland, Holland, who spent his holidays with his brother, Frits and family, in Acton.

Mr. Peter Taylor of Kirkland Lake, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clinton Taylor, has recently returned from a three week holiday in England and France.

Visitors with Mr. and Mrs. Jack Frank during the week were Mrs. C. Weir and Mrs. W. Bullard, Kilbride, Mrs. G. Silcock, Burwash and Mrs. T. Job, Willowdale.

Mr. and Mrs. Pat Patterson of Limehouse have returned from a holiday to the west coast. They flew out, returning by bus as far as Winnipeg and coming the last lap by train. They visited friends in Victoria, Vancouver, Calgary, Regina, Winnipeg and Geraldton. In Kelowna they visited with former Actonians Mr. and Mrs. Jim Greer and family.

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