

July 23, 2017 – 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Cycle A
Fr. Larry Richards

Good morning and how are you? Blessed!

Today in the second reading, it's one of my favorite readings because it talks about the need for the Holy Spirit for when we go to pray. And so He's clear about us, He says that the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know how to pray as we ought. So there's a couple things that are going on there. One that we don't know how to pray. I know some of you are older and have prayed all your life. I'm a professional prayer if you will, every day for an hour but God tells me, He tells you we don't know how to pray. Why? Because often in prayer we like to be in control, even of our prayer life right? That okay God this my prayer, this is what I want you to do. You know people who are listening to me right now around everywhere, they got with their little blue books, and when you have the Pieta books, it says if you say this many today, today's the Feast Day of Saint Brigid and you say this many prayers and the Blessed Mother will appear to you. Come on, that's superstition, or we're trying to make God do things for us.

That's not prayer led by the Holy Spirit, it's a totally different prayer when we pray in the Holy Spirit. Because what we do is, you know, the weakness in us is that brokenness. Because when we pray in the Holy Spirit as I talked about before when we go "in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit" the Spirit takes us up in the very mystery of the very relationship of the Trinity. And what is that relationship of the Trinity, we call God is love. And so when you and I go to pray that should be the place where we feel the most loved. Because we get caught up into the ecstasy of the Trinity and the Mystics talked about this. St. Elizabeth of the Trinity had a great thing about being caught up into the Trinity and being known that you are loved. But usually when we just say our prayers we just say them to get them over with. We say them to get something from God instead of just to be with the God of the Universe, who loves us. That we know we are loved when we are in His presence.

So that brokenness inside of us, is that not accepting the love of God. That's why when we go to pray, nothing changes a lot. But when you and I when we go to pray, if we never enter prayer without first going into the Spirit and asking the Spirit to pray with you and through you because God lives inside of you. That when you surrender to this, that you will not just through the motions, the Spirit will take you into the Essence of the Trinity. Why? So we can do the Will of God.

So the best thing I can tell you is in your prayer, say your prayers as always, but before you say your prayers as always, ask explicitly, that the Holy Spirit would lead your prayer. The Holy Spirit would help you experience the presence of the Trinity and that you would do God's Will. That means you surrender your will to the Will of God, which is always better right? God loves you more than you love yourself. And if we really found that in prayer we wouldn't have to be telling God this is what you need to do with me God because I know you will understand

how much I need this. He understands more than anything else in your life. He loves you more than you could ever know but you and I when we go to pray, we can't just do it on our own power. We need to do it in the Holy Spirit, so please do what you do, but from now on say "Spirit of the Living God, however you do that, you take control of my prayer," so you never do it on your own power and then always say "Your will be done." And watch what God will do for and for me.

You got it? Get it? Gonna do it? May each of you know His love today and forever,
Amen.