**Cornerstone Saturday Morning Prayer**

**January 20, 2018**

**Topic - PRAYER – Host –** Joe Guella

**Leader:** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**All:** Amen.

**Leader:** As this new year starts and we have these troubled and uncertain times, let us Pray that we can start anew in those areas of our lives that need adjustment. Lord, help us to open our minds and hearts to hear Your message through Your living Word and give us the ability to trust Your plan for us and give us the courage to put it into practice in our daily lives.

Let us come into the presence of God, who invites us by name.

*(Observe a period of silence, allowing the Lord to give us His peace.)*

**Opening Prayer**

**Leader:** Let us pray. Heavenly Father, we thank You once again for all the gifts you have blessed us with and for giving us the opportunity to gather together this Saturday morning to pray together. Please watch over each of us here in this room, as well as all those unable to join us this morning. Bless us to see Your goodness each day. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord and the Holy Spirit, One God forever and ever.

**All:** Amen.

**Reflective Thought**

Some of us have difficulty in making the time needed to pray or to find the words to ask Jesus to help us and then to truly put the outcome in the Lord’s hands. Also, we forget that frequently God’s plan for us may have a different timeline or outcome than we wanted or expected. Remember, the goal of Prayer is not just to ask God for material things, but rather, to align our will with His will.

I’m going to paraphrase some material that Brother Walter shared. It is from a 2015 talk from Fr. Dominic on Prayer. In the talk, he said “We all need help from beyond…We need God’s help; and for our part, we need prayer, recourse to prayer, in all our inadequacy and faltering.”

He talked about how the Apostles realized the importance of prayer. They looked at Jesus and sensed that He drew His real strength and power from a source beyond Himself. Luke gives us glimpses of Jesus praying in every kind of situation and in various types of locations.

Through regular prayer, “we develop an intimacy with our God, a deep knowing through His presence, way below the level of conversation. Prayer is essentially presence, mutual presence…Any methods or techniques of prayer which makes our discipline of turning inward and quieting the heart, exists only to help this unconscious prayer become conscious.”

“…we should pray while we still can and develop habits of prayer which will better connect us to the ongoing, mainly unconscious “liturgy of the heart,” in which the Holy Spirit is the principal agent. For our part, our response to the gift and mystery of prayer is humility and trust in the mercy of God, with faith in the unceasing prayer of the whole Christ in the depths of our being – remember: His prayer and ours are not two prayers, but one. And the prayer we share is not a “sprint” but a “long ride” – don’t be afraid of a little wobble!”

St. Liguori wrote a short treatise on the necessity and power of Prayer. In it he said that Prayer is necessary as a means of salvation. Without Prayer, it is impossible to resist both inner and external temptations and to keep the Commandments.

**Reflective Music**

# **I Believe in Prayer**

I have walked through nights that held no hope

When I felt so all alone

I’ve seen how much life can change

With the ringing of a phone

But God knows what we’re looking for

He cares, He loves, He sees

You can call the power of heaven down

By getting on your knees

I believe that there’s a place to go

That we can leave the burdens that we bear

I believe that we can walk into

The throne room and be heard by the One who cares

I believe that any time we call

Upon the name of Jesus, He is there

I believe He truly knows our hearts

I believe, I believe in prayer

When the world that you’re surrounded by

Treats you as unkind

And no matter how you search for peace

Confusion’s all you find

But there is still a source of hope

That you can not ignore

Just pick up your broken pieces

And bring them to the Lord

I believe that there’s a place to go

That we can leave the burdens that we bear

I believe that we can walk into

The throne room and be heard by the One who cares

I believe that any time we call

Upon the name of Jesus, He is there

I believe He truly knows our hearts

I believe, I believe in prayer

Sweet hour of prayer, Sweet hour of prayer

That leads me from the world of care

I believe that any time we call

Upon the name of Jesus, He is there

I believe He truly knows our hearts

I believe, I believe in prayer

I believe He truly knows our hearts

I believe, I believe in prayer

**The Word of God**

**John 15:5** – “…without Me, you can do nothing.”

**Luke 11:9-10** “And I tell you, Ask, and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For every one who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.”

**Reflection Questions**

* When do you Pray? Where do you go to Pray?
* Do you find that Prayer helps to calm yourself? Have you asked the Lord for help and put the outcome in His hands?
* Have you Prayed for spiritual guidance?
* Do you utilize the intersession of saints? How much more is the intercession of the Blessed Virgin?
* Does the Cornerstone Saturday prayer sessions help you? Can you elaborate? How often do you thank God for His blessings?

**Conversational Prayer**

Let us all respond out loud making sure to Thank God for prayers answered in the past, with personal prayers and intention, for ourselves, for family members, for friends, or anyone/thing else we need to pray for.

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| Jesus is here. | We focus on the presence Jesus and welcome Him with praise and adoration. |
| Thank you, Lord. | Thank Jesus for people you care about, calling them by name. |
| Help me, Lord. | Be specific, honest, and to the point. Jesus asks, “What do you want me to do for you?” Answer Him by praying for yourself (what are your needs for forgiveness, guidance, healing, growth in your spiritual life, etc.). This part is for you personally. |
| Help my brother/sister, Lord. | Pray for each person by name. |

**Closing Prayer**

**Leader:** We pray the Lord will bless and protect us, and that He will show us mercy and kindness. May the Lord watch over each of us and give us peace. May the Lord guide our Cornerstone brothers to be a living example of the mission. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. Let’s get into our huddle and pray the words that Jesus taught us.

**All:** Our Father…

 Hail Mary…

 Glory be…

 **AMEN**