



## INSISTENCE IN PRAYER

*22 February 1874*

You have all heard of the miracle granted to a child of nine or ten years. He had not been cured after a novena to Father Olivaint. The Sister taking care of him said "My child, we have not prayed with enough insistence." And having begun to pray again with confidence, the child was immediately cured.

I want to emphasize the power of prayer made with intensity. Often we make novenas or recite litanies or other prayers for nine days in a row; but when the nine days are over, it's all finished; we don't think about it anymore. Rarely do we pray with insistence and consistency, pray at every moment to obtain what we want to ask for from God.

Above all, we must ask for the coming of the Reign of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the welfare of the Church and the salvation of the multitude. Let us pray for the conversion of sinners, for the victory of the Church, for the liberty, purity and holiness of the Church. The Church is always holy; but priests and religious and all who serve the Church are concerned by this holiness and should be holy. Pray for the liberty of the Holy Father, for deliverance from those evils that threaten the body and also the soul – like revolution, war, which do so much harm to a Christian society.

To these big intentions, we can add others for our own perfection, for the Congregation, a grace for one of our sisters, for a foundation, all the things, in short, that are useful for the glory of God, God's service and reign here on earth.

But do we make these requests with sufficient insistence? When we have a little time, do we use it to pray with all our heart? With real attention, with great fervor? If you want to know why we often do not receive the object of our prayer, it's because we don't pray with enough insistence. Instead of praying with perseverance and with confidence in God, we fall back on ourselves, on our preoccupations, our defects, what we have in ourselves, and we don't turn often enough to God.

I will limit myself today to recommending constancy in prayer; to invite you to make insistent prayer the most fundamental thing in your life. When you don't have anything to do, when you have finished a job, are free from work and concerns, pray for something. Ask all that is necessary for your life or for another. Ask for all that is necessary in the present moment.

Note well, to help us understand the importance of prayer, Our Lord used simple comparisons which are not difficult to grasp. A man who had no more bread, that is what we need, goes to knock at his friend's door and perseveres until he gives him some, (Luke 11:8). One can ask for bread that is for what you need, and ask it with trust as a child with her father.

Pray then, with insistence, pray with perseverance, for all your needs, as well as for the big intentions, general intentions, important things concerning the Church, people's salvation, and all who ought to have an important place in our life.

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