

Family Prayer Is a Missionary Activity

Following is excerpted from Pope John Paul's message for World Mission Day, slated this year for Oct. 18.

From the very outset of my pontificate, I have meditated on the words of the Second Vatican Council where it is said that on "the successor of Peter ... is imposed in a special way the great duty of spreading the Christian name." Following the example of my predecessor, Paul VI, I have undertaken numerous journeys to many countries, in some of which Christ is barely known, or the missionary proclamation of the Gospel is as yet incomplete.



My journeys in Latin America, in Africa, and in Asia had "an eminently religious and missionary purpose" as I said at the time of my leaving for Africa.

I wanted to preach the Gospel myself, making myself, in a way, an itinerant catechist; and I desired to encourage all those who are at the service of the Gospel, whether in their own country, or whether they have come from other countries and continents, to put themselves at the service of a local Church. To all of them, I wanted to express my esteem and recognition of their efforts in the name of the Universal Church. These visits have given me the opportunity to admire the faith, the spiritual richness and the vitality of the young Churches; I have been able to encourage them in their efforts to plant the seeds of the Christian faith among their own people, that it might take root in their own culture. The contact with the great masses of people who still know nothing of Christ has convinced me more than anything else of the urgency of preaching the Gospel. The world needs Christ! And those who are at the outposts of this evangelical duty know it better than anyone else. The collaboration of all the Churches in the evangelization of the world must not grow weak.

Calling on the cooperation of all for missionary work, I would like to speak above all to the Christian family. In our day, we need to give back to the family, with its vitality and stability, its place of importance. What is true on the human level — that is, that the family is the basic cell of society, the foundation on which it is built — is also true of the Mystical Body of Christ, which is the Church; and for this reason, the Council called the family "the domestic Church."

Thus, the evangelization of the family is the principal aim of pastoral activity, and this will not attain its full scope if Christian families themselves do not become evangelizers and missionaries. This deepening of the pastoral, spiritual awareness brings it about that each — parents and children — will have a singular proper role and a singular importance for the Christian life of every other member of the family.

Undoubtedly, both at the religious as well as at the human level, any action taken depends on the awareness that parents have of their own responsibility



Gift of Vestments

The Catholic War Veterans Auxiliary recently donated vestments to the chapel at Canandaigua Veterans Administration Center. Rita Matthews, chairwoman of the State Department of the auxiliary, center, presents the gift to Father Miecislau (Ignatius) Curzydlo, left, as Father Edward H. Sullivan, looks on.

'The prayer of parents, like that of the Christian community, will be for the children an initiation into the search for God and to attentiveness to his calls.'

and on their Christian values. It is to parents, then, above all, that I would like to speak.

By their lives, parents are the first catechists of their children; this is very clear in the apostolic exhortation, "Catechesi Tradendae." In this catechetical activity, prayer should have the place of honor; and you will allow me to insist on this point. Despite the wonderful renewal we see here and there, prayer continues to be difficult for most Christians, who pray very little.

They ask: Of what use is prayer? Does it fit in with our modern concept of efficiency? Is there not something paltry in responding to the material and spiritual needs of the world with prayer?

In the face of these difficulties let us know how to show unfailingly that Christian prayer is inseparable from our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit; from our faith in his love and in his redeeming power, operative in the world. Therefore the prayer that is most important for us: Lord, increase our faith! It has as its aim our conversion; that is, as St. Cyprian already explained, interior and exterior availability, the will to open oneself to the transforming action of grace. In saying: Hallowed be Thy name ... we ask repeatedly, since we have been sanctified by Baptism, to persevere in what we have begun to be ... Thy Kingdom come: praying that the Kingdom of God be realized in us in the sense that we beg that his name be sanctified in us ... Then we add: Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven, so that we may be able to do what God wants ... The will of God is that which Christ did and taught.

Aquinas Announces Scholarships

Aquinas Institute has announced that a total of 58 students will be on academic scholarships during the 1981-82 school year.

Among the seniors are: Kevin Callerame, Holy Cross; Karl Gebhardt and Adrian Goding, Sacred Heart; Daniel Rodas and Colin Sheridan, Our Lady of Mercy; John Tomanovich, St. Charles; Paul Turek, Our Mother of Sorrows; Paul and Peter Zaepfel, St. Pius X.

Juniors are: Gerald Abbruzzese, St. Theodore; Richard Battisti, Michael Kreuzer and Thomas Reifsteck, St. Helen; Paul Buechel, Vladimir Stefanovic, James Uebelacker and Joseph Trabold, St. Lawrence; Lawrence Denninger, Robert Fallone and Mark Kershner, Sacred Heart; Eric Gertin, Holy Rosary.

Sophomores are: Daniel Berube, Timothy Lum and Dean Fragnito, Sacred Heart; Joseph Buttons and Frank Tantalio, St. Pius X; Christian Goetting and Kevin Palcic, Holy Name; Christopher Colocillo, Holy Rosary; Louis DeCarolis, Most Precious Blood; Michael Fischer, St. John of Greece; Scott Gerken, St. Margaret Mary; Thomas Kase, St. Augustine; Jeffrey LaDue, St. Helen; Joseph Menz, St. Ambrose; David Tomer, St. Lawrence.

These scholarships amount to \$150 per student.

In addition, the following students were awarded continuing scholarships: Edward Lynd, St. Ambrose, and Mark Mancuso, St. Anthony (\$200 each); Jeffrey DeGroot, St. Augustine; Thomas Giordano, St. Ambrose; and John Kelly, Sacred Heart (\$300 each).

Authenticity of prayer implies the authenticity of life; prayer is at the same time the cause and the result of a way of life which orients itself to the light of the Gospel. Thus understood, the prayer of parents, like that of the Christian community, will be for the children an initiation into the search for God and to attentiveness to his calls. It is in this that the witness of life finds all its importance. It presupposes that children learn already in the family its importance. It presupposes too that in the family the children learn concretely that there are more fundamental preoccupations in life than money, vacations or entertainment. And so the education imparted to the children can open them to missionary dynamism of the Christian life, if parents and other educators are themselves imbued by a missionary spirit, inseparable from the sense of the Church. By their example, even more than by their words, they will teach their own children to be generous towards those who are weaker, to share their faith and their material goods with children and youth who still do not know Christ, or who are the first victims of poverty and ignorance. Therefore Christian parents will be able to consider the flowering of a priestly or religious missionary vocation as one of the most beautiful proofs of the authenticity of the Christian education they have been given; and they will pray that the Lord will call one of their own children. Missionary solicitude manifests itself as an essential element of the sanctity of the Christian family. As my venerable predecessor, John Paul I, affirmed "Through family prayer the domestic Church becomes an effective reality and leads to the transformation of the world. And all the efforts of parents to instill God's love into their children and to support them by the example of their faith, constitute a most relevant apostolate for the 20th century."

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