

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Luke 11:1-13

'Ask, and it will be given to you.'

Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, 'Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.' And he said to them, 'When you pray, say: 'Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation.'

And he said to them, 'Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, "Friend, lend me three loaves, for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey and I have nothing to set before him"; and he will answer from within, "Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything"? I tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his impudence he will rise and give him whatever he needs. And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!'

Reflection

Jesus teaches us to pray and assures us that God is always listening. He tells us to ask, seek, and knock – because God loves us and desires to help us. St. Vincent de Paul believed that prayer is essential – but it must lead to action. He said, "Give me a man of prayer, and he will be capable of everything." Prayer strengthens us so that we can serve others with love and courage. Blessed Rosalie Rendu, who served the poorest people in the streets of Paris, understood this deeply. She once said, "Never have I prayed so well as in the streets," showing that service itself can become a form of prayer. When we pray for people in need, we should also ask: How can I help? God answers prayers in many ways and sometimes, He answers them through us.

Let's trust Him, and be ready to act when others need us.

Materials needed

Pens and paper

Activity

- Take a moment to reflect on the work you've done so far. Think about what has gone well and the progress you've made. Now, consider the challenges you've faced. Make a list of any barriers or obstacles you've encountered.
- For each challenge, try to come up with a potential solution or a different approach you could have taken.
- Are there any issues that still feel unresolved? Spend some time in prayer, asking God for insight or a new perspective. Remember, the answer to our prayers may not always be immediately clear, but trust that God is with us, guiding us through every difficulty.

Call to Action

Make a conscious effort to pray before every meeting and moment of action moving forward. Take a moment to invite God into the process, seeking His guidance, clarity, and strength. Trust that through prayer, you will be empowered to approach every situation with wisdom and grace.

