



St. Francis of Assisi Parish: Generations of Faith

A Year on Prayer: Connecting to God in Traditional and Unique Ways

Recent documents from the U. S. Bishops challenge all members of the Church to embrace the practice of lifelong learning of the faith. At every age, there is something to be learned and experienced on an individual's journey of faith. Generations of Faith offers a unique experience for all members of our faith community to learn and grow together in relationship with Jesus and His Church. In this sixth season of Generations of Faith our community will devote time to a study of prayer. It is our goal that all participants will connect with God in new ways as they become more aware of prayer as an expression of an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ.

September 2009

Announcing the First G of F EVENT

Sarah Hart Concert "Singing is Praying Twice"

Two concert choices in the church:

- Sat. Sept. 19 at 7pm
- Sun. Sept. 20 at 2pm

Tickets will be available at the door for unregistered G of F participants:

- \$5 for children and seniors
- \$10 for adults
- \$25 for a family



Don't miss our exciting first event of the program year!! Sarah comes to us from Nashville, Tennessee where she lives with her husband and two daughters. She is a songwriter, singer and musician and speaker. As

a performer and speaker, she shares her love for God, and relates her words and heart to us with deep sincerity.

Sarah's travels have brought her to Asia, Europe and around the U.S. We are pleased to invite her to our corner of the world in Belchertown. Plan to enjoy an interactive experience of singing and listening as we "pray twice." Her music is sure to please all ages.

Check out her web site - www.sarahhartmusic.com - for more information.



Sarah's CD's will be available for purchase at the concert. †

mystery, then, requires that the faithful believe in it, that they celebrate it, and that they live from it in a vital and personal relationship with the living and true God. This relationship is prayer." †

"All of these brief prayers, linked one to another; form a life of prayer: Like a chain of discreet gestures, glances and intimate words, they form a life of love. They keep us in an atmosphere of prayer without distracting us from our present tasks, but helping us to live our day more conscious of God."

- *Five Loaves and Two Fish*
Cardinal Francis Xavier
Nguyen Van Thuan

What is PRAYER?

The Catechism of the Catholic Church (#2558) describes prayer this way:

"Great is the mystery of the faith!" the Church professes this mystery in the Apostles Creed (Part 1) and celebrates it in the sacramental liturgy (Part 2), so that the life of the faithful may be conformed to Christ in the Holy Spirit to the glory of God the Father (Part 3). This

He who SINGS Prays Twice

This quote is often attributed to St. Augustine. The quote, which St. Augustine actually said was:

"For he that singeth praise, not only praiseth, but only praiseth with gladness: he that singeth praise, not

continued...

only singeth, but also loveth him of whom he singeth. In praise, there is the speaking forth of one confessing; in singing, the affection of one loving.”

(St. Augustine, Commentary on Psalm 73, 1)

Apparently this has been abridged to “He who sings prays twice” over the centuries. †

“A person changed by prayer...



...can change the world.”

~Loyola Press

Looking for a great GIFT for a college student?

Kerry Weber, our invited guest speaker, who is meeting our high school students this weekend, will be sharing her perspective and experiences of prayer.

Her new book, “*Keeping the Faith: Prayers for College Students*” would make a perfect and lasting spiritual gift for your college student.

A recent review notes, “These are heartfelt and very realistic prayers about college life. This book offers reassurance and comfort and encourages the college student to build a vibrant life of faith and prayer.”

Get the book at www.amazon.com or  Twenty-Third Publications at www.pastoralplanning.com (click on the book store icon). †

DAILY 3-Minute Retreat

Here is a unique and simple prayer experience to start your day in the quiet of your home or at the start of your office day.

Loyola Press, a Jesuit Ministry, offers to those who subscribe online a daily 3-Minute Retreat experience. Give yourself a treat every morning with time for prayer reflection that invites God into your day.

Check it out at - www.loyolapress.com  - and click on 3-Minute Retreat.

“Three minutes a day can give you 24 hours of peace.” †

RIDDLE to Ponder



What is greater than God?
More evil than the devil?
The poor have it?
The rich need it?
And if you eat it, you'll die?

Look for the answer in the next newsletter!



that was easy.

Prayer in SCRIPTURE

Find time in the next month to reflect upon these Bible passages about five different forms of prayer.

Blessing and Adoration

~Ephesians 1:3-4
~Psalm 95:1-6

Petition

~John 14:13-14



Intercession

~Romans 8:26-27
~Acts 12:1-5

Thanksgiving

~Colossians 4:2

Praise

~Philippians 2:6-11