

Meditation 2014-02-28
Friday Following Sexagesima Sunday
Meditation Theme: “Do I ask for grace?”

Place yourself in the presence of Jesus Christ. Make sure He knows that every thought, action, and experience of today is dedicated exclusively to Him.

The Scenario: From the Collect of today’s Mass

DEUS, qui cónspicis, quia ex nulla nostra actióne confidimus: concéde propítius; ut contra advérsa ómnia doctóris géntium protectióne muniámur. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum filium tuum, qui tecum vivat et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sǎcula sǎculórum. Amen.

O GOD, Who seest that we put not our trust in any thing that we do: mercifully grant, that by the protection of the Doctor of the Gentiles we may be defended against all adversities. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Who with Thee livest and reignest in the unity of the Holy Ghost, one God, through all the ages of the ages. Amen.

Point 1. – We all know that God is always willing to grant what we ask in Jesus’ name. He said “Whatsoever you shall ask the Father in my name, that will I do.” (*John 14:13*) We are bound to believe it.

Point 2. – We know that there is nothing that we can do alone that will benefit us spiritually. Our Lord said “Without Me you can do nothing.” (*John 15:5*)

Point 3. – We ask for defense against adversities by the protection of Saint Paul, the Doctor to the Gentiles. Saint Paul, after his conversion, worked tirelessly to bring souls to Heaven. He continues to do this.

Meditation: The Collect of the Mass is generally a petition of the whole congregation, led by the Priest, wherein we ask God for something. Carefully consider your answers to some questions. Do I ask God for anything, ever? Do I understand that God is the One Who gives us all good things (as is mentioned elsewhere in the Mass)? How much do I get without even asking? Need I ask for more? What should I ask for? How much? A box full? A truckload? If someone I don’t like asks me for something, am I more or less inclined to give it than I would be if asked by a close friend? Might God work the same way? What does it mean to be a close friend to God? If I am not as good a friend as I should be, how can I be a better one? I know that God wants to give me the grace I need to get to Heaven. Should I ask for that, or simply expect it? Do I have a right to it? Do I have a right to anything? Does God owe me anything? Is He going to force His grace upon me even if I don’t want it? Is He waiting for me to ask? How real should my petition be? How sincere? Do I ask in a purely ‘pro forma’ way, or do I ask like I really want it? Does it matter? Do I need to ask for God’s grace? Do I ever ask?

Colloquy: Take a minute or two to converse with God, in any of His three Persons, or the Triune God complete in Himself. Tell Him what you have learned from your meditation, and thank Him for it.

Hold the Gain: Consider what you can do to keep the fruits of your meditation. Try to plan how you can think of them through the day, and through the days ahead. Come up with ways you can apply your conclusions to what you do in your everyday life, conversations you engage in, the choice of what movie to watch, what books you choose to read.