

## **XVII Sunday in Ordinary Time – ASIA**

July 28, 2019

Lord, teach us to pray! This is a supplication of Jesus disciples who yearns to grow in a deeper and intimate relationship with God. A longing that springs from within, to learn from the Master, Jesus himself. That characterizes and identifies them as Jesus followers in their way of relating to God and among themselves.

Day by day we are all bombarded with daily noises; the threatening world peace and security, the demands of economic and political stability, modernization, climate change, an active participant in the world of social media, plus our daily concerns and realities at home and at work. With all these things how much is left for us to be in contact with ourselves, to be in silence so we could truly pray, to be in communion with God and discover him in the concrete faces of our brothers and sisters who are in need and suffering?

Today's Gospel invites us, once and again to bend our knees and humbly ask God to strengthen our faith and approach him confidently and call him "Abba" Father. It is through prayer that we grow in intimacy with God and in constant relationship with our brothers and sisters. A transforming power that lead us to acknowledge him alive and at work in our life and in the world. A power, that draws us, to get out of ourselves and be in communion with others and the rest of all creation.

A communion that you and I are called to enter into with the Holy Trinity. That gradually transforms us into a person that God plans and wants us to be; reflecting the *divinity* in us, the *god* in us. A discovery of our true identity as God's beloved children; whom the Father loves so much. This reality conforms us to obey the will of God with all our being; uniting our will with that of Him. Living a richer and deeper way of life, with its meaning and significance. A life that radiates the ray of light from God itself, an act that communicates the love experienced in prayer, a trust and confidence in God that transmitted in words of inspiration and encouragement with others. And a spirit that exudes peace and tirelessness.

Jesus said: "*ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened...*" It reminds us that prayer requires persistence. Let us beg God, to help us persevere in prayer, so we may never get tired of asking him repeatedly like Abraham in the first reading; may we learn to seek untiringly until we find what can satiate authentically our hearts; and knock intensely to His heart until He grants our prayers in his perfect time.