

## ***Peace is....being prayerful***

Romans 13: 8-10 *“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”*

Matthew 18: 15-20 *“...amen, I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything for which they are to pray, it shall be granted to them by my heavenly Father.”*

### **Reflection:**

How much do we trust Jesus' words in the gospel reading about the power of prayer? Prayer is not only an intrinsic part of our spiritual life, but it is a key instrument of peace.

When we love our neighbor, we concern ourselves with his/her concerns. If someone we know has cancer, we try to help meet their physical and emotional needs, maybe bringing over a favorite dish, and comforting them with our words or just our presence. Perhaps we have past experience or medical knowledge to address some questions they have, or can help them understand the process of what they are going through. Beyond that, we place that person in God's hands, knowing that He has their best good in His all-loving heart. Above all, we pray for him/her, as only God can take care of all the things that we have no control over. And He can give that person *peace*, which no one can provide but Him.

*“Say the Rosary every day, to obtain peace for the world.”* ~ Our Lady of Fatima, 1917  
*Peace for the world!* Do we truly believe this? Do we believe that God can do anything? Do we act on this belief by giving everything to God in prayer? So often we rely on ourselves to take care of our problems. We need to turn to our all-knowing, all-loving God to help us in all of our needs.

Recall the story in which Jesus drove out an unclean spirit from a boy, after his disciples were unable to expel it. (Mark 9:14-29)<sup>1</sup> The reason they could not? Jesus told them, *“This kind you can drive out only by prayer.”* The father's words before the miracle took place: *“I do believe! Help my lack of trust!”*

An example of the power of prayer is given to us by Mother Teresa of Calcutta. In August, 1982, she was sent by Pope John Paul II to Beirut, where there was much bombing going on. After lighting a large Easter candle, Mother Teresa prayed for a cease-fire, which she had been told was ridiculous and 'impossible.' An hour later, it was suddenly quiet. On August 12, she went to console and assist in the evacuation of 38 mentally and physically handicapped children from a war-torn area. Two days later, she was able to help rescue another 27 children.<sup>2</sup>

*“...for nothing is impossible with God.”* ~ the Angel Gabriel (Luke 1:37)

### **Action:**

- Say the Rosary every day, to obtain peace for the world. Peace is what our world truly needs, if we would only heed Our Lady's words. We are not helpless in bringing about peace in today's world.**
- There is a multitude of examples in Scripture about the power of prayer. Let us make a commitment to read Scripture every day, to know the Lord better through His Word. This is prayer in itself.**
- Let us give everything to God in prayer. When we are unsure, let us follow the example of the father in the story, and pray, “I do believe! Help my lack of trust!”**

*Sacred Heart of Jesus, I place all my trust in you!*

<sup>1</sup> For complete Scripture reading, go to the Peace and Social Justice (P&SJ) page at [www.sjbcatholicparish.org](http://www.sjbcatholicparish.org) It will be under the flier section, entitled Mark 9:14-29.

<sup>2</sup> For full story, go to P&SJ page at the above website. Taken from *Mother Teresa: A Complete Authorized Biography*, by Kathryn Spink, 1997.