

I. Prayer as Intercession

Reading from Pope Francis

The great men and women of God were great intercessors. Intercession is like ‘a leaven of the Trinity’. It is a way of preparing the Father’s heart and discovering new dimensions which can shed light on concrete situations and change them. We can say that God’s heart is touched by our intercessions, yet in reality he is always there first. What our intercession achieves is that his power, his love and his faithfulness are shown ever more clearly in the midst of the people. (EG 283)

Pause for reflection

- What are your thoughts and feelings about different forms of prayer ?
- ‘Authentic prayer leads to an openness to personal change’. Does this statement have any meaning for you ? What are possible implications ?
- ‘Saying prayers is not necessarily prayer’. Does this statement have any meaning for you ? Does this statement challenge some ‘prayer’ attitudes and practices in our school ?

Sharing

In so far as participants are at ease, now have short 1:1, or group, sharing on issues arising from the foregoing reflection.

Scripture Reading - Luke 11:1-4

One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, ‘Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples’ He said to them , When you pray, pray thus—

All: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be your name, your Kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread , and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Hymn option

I Thank My God

Chorus: I thank my God each time I think of you,
and when I pray for you, I pray with joy.

Now there is one thing I am sure of, He who began his work in you
Will see that it is truly finished, when the day of Jesus comes (chorus)

That I should feel like this toward you, seems only natural to me
For you have shared with me my labours, the Gospel privilege with me (chorus)

- *Eagles Wings*, Frank Andersen MSC

