

**Future Direction Subcommittee of the Supreme Council  
Polish National Catholic Church**

July 1, 2017

Dear Bishops, Very Rev. and Rev. Fathers, Deacons and Faithful of our Holy Church,

As we begin the month of July and are enjoying the summer months of this Year of Commitment, our Holy Church calls to us constant prayer. We thank Fr. Michal Gitner for preparing this month's Future Direction Commitment Message.

It happened that while Jesus was praying in a certain place, after He had finished, one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray just as John also taught his disciples." (Lk 11:1 NASB).

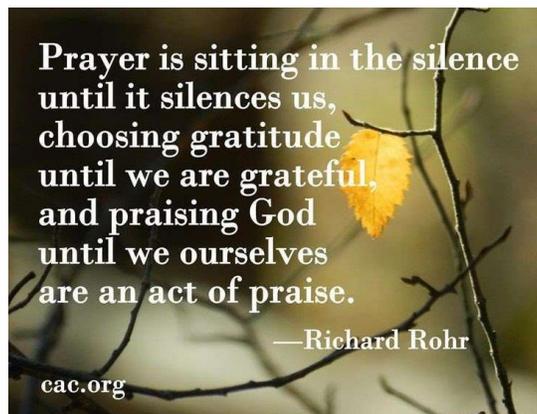
A strange request by Jesus' disciples, one would assume Jewish men familiar with synagogue religious services. Is that a clue that they were asking for something that nobody taught them before? Were they dissatisfied with just 'saying' their prayers or reciting the Psalms?

Most of us have absorbed the idea of prayer as an action, a behavior, a recitation, a private time in which we think devout thoughts - and almost always with the assumption that this somehow pleases God. Sure it does, since God seems to be easily pleased. But the biblical God is seeking and wanting union with us much more than we are seeking union with God. This is the theme of themes of the whole biblical text, or as Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel says, "God is seeking man."

When Jesus goes into the desert for forty days (Matthew 4:1–11), he does not recite prayers or read the Hebrew Bible (the printing press had not been invented yet!) The Gospels make no mention of Jesus reciting any formula prayers, except at the Last Supper where he and his disciples likely sung the Hallel, or Psalms 113–118 (Matthew 26:30) at the close of the Passover meal.

However, we read about Jesus "leaving the house early" and "going apart to a lonely place to pray" (Mark 1:35). Could it be that it is much easier to live in this state of conscious, loving union with God when there is nothing else competing for our attention?

Hence, if prayer is understood as conscious loving union with God, and with a person in front of me, then we touch the deepest meaning of it. In that sense prayer becomes a way of being in the world, a stance, a way of connecting.



All prayer is practicing for prayer. No one really knows how to pray, as Paul states "*We cannot choose words to pray properly, so the Spirit expresses our pleas in a way beyond words—and God knows.*" (Romans 8:26–27). Without

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an inner life, our outer prayer will soon become superficial, ego-centered, and even counter-productive on the spiritual path.

Jesus own teaching on prayer is very direct:

- He warns his followers about the very real dangers of public prayer or “standing up in the synagogues” (Matthew 6:5), as he puts it.
- You should go to your private room, shut the door, and pray to your Father who is in that secret place.” (Matthew 6:6)
- “In your prayers, do not babble on as the pagans do, thinking that by using many words they will make themselves be heard. Do not be like them!” (Matthew 6:7)

What all of these teachings of Jesus seem to say is that we probably need “unsaying prayer,” the prayer of quiet or contemplative prayer, to balance out all “saying prayer.”

Jesus never emphasizes posture, timing, or gesture—only intention—which is why we can indeed “pray constantly” (1 Thessalonians 5:16), for it is: **God** is the one who loves and prays through us, **Jesus** shares and participates in this flow with and in his Body (that is us!), and the **Spirit** keeps it all moving, dynamic, alive—and always flowing outward!

*(Based on Prayer in the Catholic Tradition: A Handbook of Practical Approaches, Robert J. Wicks by Franciscan Media)*



In the Eastern Diocese their Mission and Evangelism commission provides a monthly prayer calendar suggesting topics to pray each day. It is included here for your prayerful consideration. If you would like more information on this monthly prayer calendar please email us and we will have you added to this list. Thanks to Karen Sobiechowski for putting this calendar together.

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>July 2017</b></p> <p>PNCC Eastern Diocese Mission / Evangelism Prayer</p>					Where your treasure is, your heart will be also. Set aside time for prayer today!	1 Lord, bless the youth and adults gathered at KURS (7/1-8) as they play and pray together
2 To have life in Christ we must take up our cross and follow Him. (Matt.10:37-42)	3 If you are seeking direction, listen for the voice of Jesus, the Good Shepherd.	4 "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord." May our hearts be turned to Him!	5 You are created in God's image, and He lives in You. How are you caring for His temple?	6 Just as He healed a paralytic (Mt.9), Jesus is able to heal today. Ask and believe He will act.	7 Jesus came to seek and save the lost. Share His love and hope with someone today.	8 Take time for a good examination of conscience before going to Mass this weekend.
9 Join in prayer and fellowship at the Cathedral of the Pines in Rindge, NH, today.	10 Jesus wants you to ask for what you need. Talk to Him in prayer, and expect a response!	11 The harvest is plentiful, laborers few. What is God calling you to do today?	12 Sharing Jesus with others helps faith to grow - both yours & theirs. Go where He sends.	13 Jesus blessed you so that you can bless others. Share what you have - your faith.	14 Reach out to someone who is lonely or ill or who recently experienced loss.	15 Pray for the clergy of our church to have the mind of Christ and to be good shepherds.
16 Lord, make us a community of disciples, all seeking You. ~ (Sacred Space)	17 God's Word is powerful and accomplishes His will (Isa. 55). Pray the Scriptures!	18 Till the soil of our hearts, Lord, so that Your Word may bear fruit in us (Matthew 13:1-23).	19 Find joy in the Lord, and you will see what is truly important (See Psalm 37:4).	20 Does God want to start something new in your life? Ask, and watch what happens.	21 May we look at others through Jesus' eyes and be less quick to judge them.	22 What can you do to make your neighborhood a better place?
23 God comforts us in our troubles so that we may comfort others (2 Corinthians 1:1-14)	24 Lord, fill us with Your gifts. Make us eager to serve You in faith, hope and love. (Lit. of Hours)	25 May NUC Music Workshop participants have safe travel to Manchester, NH.	26 Bless the work of the National United Choirs as they convene; may they glorify You.	27 Give presenters Your words as they lead Workshop sessions for music ministers.	28 Give music ministry leaders a fresh anointing to lead people in praising You, Lord.	29 If you have faith in Christ, you have a new song to sing and a reason for hope: Eternal Life.
30 Solomon valued wisdom more than riches (1 Kings 3). What do I treasure?	31 Give thanks to God for all that He is teaching you in your time with Him each day.	"Optimists do not ignore the difficulties; they are keenly aware of them.	But the knowledge of God's presence	prevents them from becoming discouraged or giving up.	It is impossible to stand in the presence of God and be a pessimist!"	~Henry Blackaby, <u>Experiencing God Day by Day</u>

Please continue to share with the Future Direction committee the efforts in your parish of implementing the 2017 Action Plan. How are your community service projects going? Let us rejoice in the opportunity God is providing us to put the Holy Gospel into action in our local communities.

If you know of parishioners or friends who are not a part of our monthly email updates – please have them email us at [FutureDirection@pncc.org](mailto:FutureDirection@pncc.org) to become a part of this important effort for our Holy Church.

Please keep this church-wide undertaking begun at Holy Synod in your daily prayers – asking the Holy Spirit to lead and guide this work and allow it to bear fruit for the building of His Kingdom through our Holy Church. As we continue our year of commitment 2017 - let us continue and renew our Commitment to Christ and our Holy Catholic and Apostolic PNCC.

May God bless you and may you pray as St. Paul tells us - without ceasing!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

**PNCC Future Direction Committee**

Most Rev. Anthony A. Mikovsky, Prime Bishop

Very Rev. Robert M. Nemkovich Jr., Chairman