

INTRODUCTION

“Ordinary Time is the season of the Church year when Catholics are encouraged to grow and mature in daily expression of their faith outside the great seasons of celebration of Christmas and Easter and the great periods of penance of Advent and Lent.”

This “Time”, let us continue our journey in the following of Christ, “living our ordinary time” as a “privilege time” to strength our option for God; to know his will; and to build his kingdom.

Jesus “ordinariness of life” will be our point of reference. He will journey with us and he will teach us in the “ordinariness of our life”: at work, at school, at home and likewise, in the midst of our sufferings and joys, triumphs and failures, how to live it in an “extraordinary way”; where we grow and develop our identity and mission as Verbum Dei.

However, in the practice of living our “ordinary life” in this “extra ordinary way” is often not spontaneous and instant. Thus, the means of our spirituality Verbum Dei will help us in our perseverance. Prayer, fraternal love, cross and mission.

This week, our focus will be in the aspect of prayer. What is the prayer

that as a disciples Jesus invite us to live? Transforming prayer, is one of the goal of it, no only to pray but to experience the power of the Word of God that transform our values, our thoughts, and bring us closer of what we are call to be “light for the world”. Prayer where God’s Word can touch, main, soul, heart, make us living witness of His grace.

So, we are to reinforce our conviction and option for prayer, why is important for us Verbum Dei this quality of prayer? “Because the disciples must always offer an imitation of and a testimony to the charity and humility of Christ” LG42

The invitation is to persevere in the ordinariness of our life in a quality of prayers that influence in the ambient where we are and to be able to recognize the transcendence of our life in the world of today, as Pope Pio XI sad: “the salvation of many depends of the prayers of few”

MONDAY

Lord teach us how to pray

Matthew 6:6-13

⁷ And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. ⁸ Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. ⁹ “This, then, is how you should pray:

“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, ¹⁰ your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. ¹¹ Give us today our daily bread. ¹² And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. ¹³ And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Jesus’ prayer is very personal and intimate to God whom he called Father. He spent time and effort to be with God. In prayer, Jesus experiences the assurance of the Father’s love and his presence. His prayer is centered on God and others and he prays in order to uphold the path of forgiveness and reconciliation to all men/women.

How about my prayer? Is it in the way that Jesus prays?

TUESDAY

Attitudes of prayer

1 Kings 17:17-24

17 Sometime later the son of the woman who owned the house became ill. He grew worse and worse, and finally stopped breathing. 18 She said to Elijah, “What do you have against me, man of God? Did you come to remind me of my sin and kill my son?” 19 “Give me your son,” Elijah replied. He took him from her arms, carried him to the upper room where he was staying, and laid him on his bed. 20 Then he cried out to the Lord, “Lord my God, have you brought tragedy even on this widow I

am staying with, by causing her son to die?” 21 Then he stretched himself out on the boy three times and cried out to the Lord, “Lord my God, let this boy’s life return to him!” 22 The Lord heard Elijah’s cry, and the boy’s life returned to him, and he lived. 23 Elijah picked up the child and carried him down from the room into the house. He gave him to his mother and said, “Look, your son is alive!” 24 Then the woman said to Elijah, “Now I know that you are a man of God and that the word of the Lord from your mouth is the truth.”

Sincerity of heart, petition and trusting in God in our prayer is what “make possible for God what is impossible for man.”

Do I find myself open to the will of God in my prayer? Does he find me completely open to Him? What is the attitude that God inviting me to put in my prayer?

WEDNESDAY

Transforming prayer by the renewal of our mind

Romans 12:1-2

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able

to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Galatians 2:19-20

¹⁹ "For through the law I died to the law so that I might live for God. ²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Let us be renewed by the transformation of our mind, desires and actions. God is not taking away our desires and wants, He only elevates it to something divine and holy, thus provoke a new meaning of life for us and others.

THURSDAY

Prayer: brings us a new way living our life in the world of today

Matthew 5:3-10

He said:

³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵ Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷ Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

God is inviting us to go deeper to what is the real meaning of life through prayer and to discover and value the meaning of Happiness in a new way.

Happy are you! What do I consider as happiness in life now? Do I consider being merciful and righteous in the eyes of God as my happiness? Let us enter in the values of the Gospel which is the values of God.

FRIDAY

Prayer entails determined determination

Matthew 7:21-23

²¹ "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ²² Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?' ²³ Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you.'

It's not enough to simply call God in prayer "Lord, Lord", we have to make a determined determination to find quality moments of silence with the

Lord. It is only in these moments that we grow in our relationship with him.

SATURDAY

Be light of the World

Matthew 5:3-10.15-16

¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.

¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

2 Corinthians 4:7

But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.

Our life of prayer is a concrete sign for the world of today of who God is. In our dialogue with Him, he provides us the grace to live our limits and weaknesses in a different way.

This is our challenge; to be light is to show to others His strength in us. It is his love, mercy, peace, selfless self-giving in us that makes us to face our "ordinary life" situation in an extra ordinary way.

SUNDAY

2 SM 12:7-10, 13

PS 32:1-2, 5, 7, 11

GAL 2:16, 19-21

LK 7:36—8:3

Verbum Dei

GUIDELINES FOR PRAYER



Prayer

Transforming prayer by the renewal of our mind

June 10-15, 2013

Objective of the week:

In the ordinariness of life, to experience the power of the Word of God that transform us and bring us closer of what we are call to be "light for the world"