

15th Wednesday in Ordinary Time C

Homily of Bishop Barres

July 13, 2022

Chapter 7 of the Gospel of Matthew shows the unity of the Father and the Son. Our Lord says: “All things have been handed over to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him.”

The Father, Son and Holy Spirit dwell within us and our daily prayer opens us up to their presence in our souls and our call to mission.

St. Bernard of Clairvaux once used the image of the Roman aqueduct which transported water from a reservoir through masterfully constructed aqueducts to Rome.

St. Bernard wrote: “We need to be reservoirs of prayer before we can be aqueducts of God’s grace.”

Prayer and action work together. Prayer focuses our action and action nourishes our prayer.

In his book *Conversing with God as a Friend*, St. Alphonsus Liguori (1696-1787) writes: “Accustom yourself to speak to God, one to one, in a familiar manner as to the dearest friend you have and who loves you best of all...Your God is ever at your side, indeed, within you. ‘In him we live and move and have our being’ (Acts 17:28). You don’t need to work through a doorman if you want to approach God. God delights in your intimacy. Discuss all your business with God, your plans, your troubles, your fears – anything at all that concerns you. And do so with confidence, with your heart open wide.”¹

Let’s open our hearts, minds, souls and lives wide to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit dwelling within us.

¹ St. Alphonsus Liguori, *Selected Writings (The Classics of Western Spirituality)*, (New York: Paulist Press, 1999), 276.

Through prayer and living lives grounded in the Gospel, may our hearts beat in rhythm with the humility, mercy and fortitude of Our Lord's most Sacred Heart.

Catholic saints, mystics and martyrs of every age, every century and every world and Church crisis in history teach us that the process of living the Paschal Mystery – the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ – requires dying to ourselves and rising in holiness and contemplative concentration in prayer.

Minds, hearts and souls on Fire with Christ make the lasting marks on salvation and world history.

Together, we ask the Holy Spirit to lead each of us to deeper prayer and a deeper listening to the Lord.

Let's ask the Holy Spirit today, in our communion with the mission of the Church, to lead us to one practical step to deepen our spirit of daily prayer.