

Good Friday Homily, Queen of Apostles Community, Dayton, Oh
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Dear Friends,

Reflecting of the Good Friday Liturgy which we are engaged I kept thinking of how to pray this powerful Liturgy within the basic way Blessed Chaminade taught how to pray. Therefore, I would like to share the basics of Chaminade's teaching and apply them to our prayer with this liturgy.

Blessed Chaminade spent years teaching and encouraging a way of prayer called Prayer of Faith. There are many notebooks from his contemporary followers who record how he taught this way of prayer. There are numerous notes of his conferences on this topic,

In teaching, there are three steps to praying. They are **Openness, Assent and Awareness**. Faith is praying with these three dynamics.

Openness is a disposition of using our intelligence, our will power, as well as all our powers of such as memory, imagination, and emotion in such a way as to be ready to grow, to see possibilities. No matter our age, we seek to be open to reality, not be closed in a blindness,

Acceptance is making our own the possibilities God gives us. For example, when we welcome a friend into our home, we must actively make the person welcome. There is a readiness to change, to be converted. Faith is seizing what is happening to us. We lead to something greater than ourselves. We are no longer self-centered.

Awareness is the basic function of being a person. We get to know the melody of a song that enlivens us when we are aware of it. Awareness is our being conscious of love. Think of the friendships that have happened here at Queen of Apostles through the years. They have happened because of openness to their possibility and acceptance of mutual caring for each other and then a continuous awareness of the love, trust, and faith in each other.

I want to apply this to our Good Friday Prayer.

In the Gospel of John, there are many who are not open, who will not accept, and who are incapable of entering into an awareness of who Jesus

is. Peter is weak and denies Jesus. The Pharisees are definitely opposed to Jesus. The Roman soldiers become vicious. The leaders force Pilate to do what he really does not believe.

On the other hand, the good thief has an openness to this. Joseph of Arimathea has some openness and comes to bury the body of Jesus. Nicodemus has a spirit of openness.

However, the primary example of complete openness to Jesus is Mary his mother. She is willing to stand right under the cross. John the presumed writer of the gospel is also completely open to Jesus. They are prime examples those who pray in openness, acceptance and awareness totally of who Jesus is.

They have a living faith with all their beings that Jesus' crucifixion and death have a meaning that others cannot recognize. The suffering is not the ultimate. If we are open and aware we all can enter into a faith that sees that suffering in love leads to new life. If we open, assent to the goodness like Mary and John, and accept the reality of not being negative, of not letting our own will control but of being open to an ascending to the goodness around us we can assimilate this into our beings what God calls us to be.

So, our prayer today now as we enter into the intercessions, is an invitation that we pray for is meaningful powerful necessary into sessions that way and all of us Christians believe in God bringing them about.

As we adore the cross, we beg that we will be also willing to suffer whatever we have to suffer in order that this goodness of God will come to our Earth. As we receive communion, we unite ourselves in this mystery of Christ that we live out in our own lives and share with others in this union we have with this magnificent awareness and openness and acceptance of God's goodness.