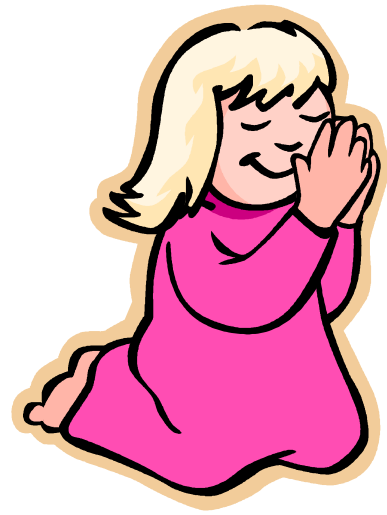


Week Eight
Relying on Prayer



Listening to the Word of God

Two Parables on Prayer (Luke 11:5-13)

Jesus said to them: "If one of you knows someone who comes to him in the middle of the night and says to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves, for a friend of mine has come in from a journey and I have nothing to offer him; and he from inside should reply, 'Leave me alone. The door is shut now and my children and I are in bed. I cannot get up to look after your needs' – I tell you, even though he does not get up and take care of the man because of friendship, he will do so because of his persistence, and give him as much as he needs. So, I say to you, 'Ask and you shall receive; seek and you shall find; knock and it shall be opened to you'. For whoever asks, receives; whoever seeks, finds; whoever knocks, is admitted.

'What father among you will give his son a snake if he asks for a fish, or hand him a scorpion if he asks for an egg? If you, with all your sins, know how to give your children good things, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him.'



Listening about Catherine

Retreat Instructions of Mother Catherine McAuley (pp.89-111)

'God has established a law that His graces should flow to us through the channels of prayer and the sacraments, and these are so united that the performance of one is a preparation for the other... Prayer is a plant, the seed of which is sown in the heart of every Christian, but its growth depends on the care

we take to nourish it. If neglected, it will die. If nourished by constant practice, it will blossom and produce fruit in abundance... Fervent prayer should be the life and soul of a religious ... Fervour may be exercised in the midst of disgust and aridities. We may feel a great disrelish for prayer and be almost glad when it is over. Yet, if we go to it with a determined resolution of not letting ourselves be carried away by temptation, we may be said to be truly fervent.'