



Developing a Habit of Prayer— Here's What I'm Doing

**By Faith Harmon
12th grade**



Prayer. Whenever I hear this word spoken out loud I think about a lot of things: peace, hope, wisdom and courage. All these are things that we can receive from prayer. Prayer is a very powerful tool that we as Christians can and should utilize every single day of our lives. Prayer has a huge impact, not just on the person or people being prayed for, but on the person who is praying as well. We should never underestimate the power of prayer, because if we do, then we are underestimating the power of God.

Prayer is such a wonderful privilege to take part in. I think it is pretty amazing that one of the ways God shows His awesome power is through the power of prayer. I have incorporated prayer in my life more and more every year since 2009 (the year that I gave my life to Jesus). I

have definitely struggled over the years with having a prayer centered life. Even though it has not always been easy, God has been with me every step of the way.

God has really put it on my heart to always seek out people who are in need of prayer. The things that God lets me witness through praying for others are really amazing. God builds my faith a little bit more every time I pray for somebody. God can reveal amazing things to us when we pray.

I am on the Healing and Miracle Team so I have gone to several healing and miracle services over the past year. I recall one service that I went to where God really built my faith. I went up to a middle-aged woman and her mother right after Uncle Mark Wilby told us to pray for all the people with eye or ear problems. I asked the middle-aged

woman what was wrong with her and her mother, and she told me that they both had hearing problems. Another prayer partner and I prayed for these women. When we were done praying, we asked them if they could hear better than they could before. Both ladies piped up and said, "Yes, we can hear a lot better now!" These healings that I witnessed made me realize that I should never put a limit on what God can or cannot do at one time.

Making prayer a habit in my life has been such a rewarding journey because once prayer became a habit for me, I then was able to think more positively, and I became more and more open to what God wanted to say to me and to others through prayer. I remember the week when I had just given my life to Jesus. I was

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Have a Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving

Habit of Prayer

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really excited about praying for others now that I had His light in me. That week, I asked one of my sisters in Christ how she constantly kept a prayerful mindset. She told me that whenever she thought of someone, she would pray for that person right then and there. I have adopted this method of prayer in my daily life, and it is an awesome way to pray for someone, especially if that person is not physically with me.

Weekday mornings can be quite hectic. My family prays in the car on the way to school every school day so that we can start our day out right. We do spiritual warfare, put on the armor of God, and my mother always makes sure that she prays for the things that my brother or I will have to do that day (for example, a test or

Catholic Fraternity Meets in Rome

By Dan Almeter

This is a sharing on the recent Rome trip that Tod and I were privileged to be part of. What a blessing! As representative of the North American English speaking communities, I met with the Executive of the Catholic Fraternity leaders (about 15 people representing six continents). This is the role Dennis McBride held for nine years. The new president of the Fraternity is Gilberto Barbosa from Brazil, replacing Matteo Calisi who served in this role for the previous nine years. The new president is a deeply spiritual man with great vision for the Fraternity. The meeting of the Executive was followed by a meeting with the Council. The Council con-

sists of the leader from each covenant community or fellowship (if the community is ecumenical). And each community is encouraged to bring an alternate (Tod).

After two days of these meetings, a general conference was held which was open to anyone associated with the Fraternity. About 400 attended. The theme of the conference was "Praise and Charismatic Worship for a New Evangelization." The conference started with all 400 of us loading into buses for the trip to Vatican City to meet with Pope Francis. His talk was awesome (though at the

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a basketball game). My family has done this ever since I can remember, and I know that it has a great positive impact on my day.

When I was a young Christian, I remember being both scared and excited to pray for other people in public. God really molded and changed my heart in this area of my life. The first time I prayed for someone in public, I was shaking so much that I could hardly speak. I used to care about what other people would think about how I was praying or what I was saying while praying.

God has shown me over the past few years that everything I pray out loud is really Him speaking through me. Once I realized this, I started to pray for people in a completely different way. My job when I pray is to just open up my mouth and speak the words that HE wants me to speak. Now I try to pray for other people as much as I can.

Whenever I see someone who is hurting or having a bad day, I try to ask him if he would like to have me pray for him right at that moment. I do this not only to make that person

feel better but also so that I can glorify God through praying for that person. Praying for people when they are physically present is such an important thing to do. I find that many times when I tell someone, "I'll pray for you." and then walk away, that I sometimes forget to pray for that person later. We need to ask God for courage so that we can always walk up to someone and be able to pray for him right then and there.

Keep trusting in God if this is something that you struggle with. I have learned that the more I pray for others, the more I learn about how God works through prayer. Whenever I get discouraged about something in my prayer life, I just tell myself this: just keep praying, just keep praying, just keep praying!! We can never have too much prayer. And God rejoices when we honor and glorify Him through prayer.

Faith Harmon is the daughter of Full Covenant members Bob and Lisa Harmon and is a senior in Alleluia Community School.

Prayer for a Grateful Heart

O thou who gives so much to me,
Give one thing more: a grateful heart.
Not thankful only when it pleases me —
as if Thy blessings had spare days —
But such a heart whose very pulse will sing Thy praise.

-Author unknown

Pope Stated Charismatic Renewal is Ecumenical in its DNA

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time I didn't understand a word since it was all in Italian). One of the things he challenged us with included bringing the Baptism of the Holy Spirit to the whole Church. He also spoke of praise and adoration as the means to be filled with the love and fire of God, so that we could be witnesses to Jesus. He basically said we can't give what we don't have. And we get what we need through praise and adoration.

He challenged the Catholic Fraternity to never forget its roots—that the Charismatic Renewal is ecumenical in its very DNA. The pope quoted Pope Paul VI who said, "The power of evangelization will find itself considerably diminished if those who proclaim the Gospel are divided among themselves in all sorts of ways." Pope Francis said, "Is this not perhaps one of the greatest sicknesses of evangelization today? Yes ... Prepare the Bride for the Bridegroom who comes! One Bride only!"

In focusing on ecumenism, the pope was clearly setting the path for the Catholic Fraternity. Unity is now a major theme for the whole Fraternity. (It always has been in its statutes, but Pope

Francis is putting theory into practice.) In the Untied States, more and more of the Fraternity communities are also taking the call to unity much more seriously.

The level of deep worship and sense of God's presence at the conference was incredible. Both Tod and I were touched deeply with God's presence as we worshipped. The quality of the speakers was also quite amazing. Very often in the past at such conferences, we would listen to Church dignitaries speak in theological terms that put a strain on the brain trying to comprehend. These speakers brought us into an experience of God and were "nuts and bolts" in their teaching. They also spoke of a fresh outpouring of the Spirit, with even more power, about to come upon us. A particular vision from Sharon Poppleton from City of the Lord Community described a huge ball of fire hovering above us, longing to descend upon us. The condition to seeing this fire fall upon us rested upon intercession and our willingness to suffer to receive it. Fr. Cantalamesa, the papal preacher who many of us listened to in Virginia Beach



Dan Almeter and Chris Noone shake hands with Pope Francis

last spring, was on hand for the entire conference and gave us several inspiring talks.

One of the main sessions was led by Chris Noone along with a group of youth from the Servants of Jesus Community in Australia. They shared a brief video of



Tod Densmore with Gilberto Barbosa, the new president of the Fraternity

their youth doing "treasure hunting." I was privileged to also share our experience with this form of evangelization in Alleluia. As we shared, the Holy Spirit fell. People began lining up for healing, words of knowledge began to flow and we spent nearly an hour of "unplanned" ministry in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The fraternal relationships of the leaders from the U.S. were palpable and commented on by those present. After the conference ended, the U.S. leaders spent another day and a half meeting together. It was a very rich fellowship and a time of planning for the future.

These are just a few of the highlights. So much of what happens in these meetings takes place in personal relationships and conversations around the meal table, eating pasta. Life long friendships were renewed and made for both Tod and myself. Some of these relationships have the potential to greatly impact the work of God in Alleluia.

I'll close by sharing a blessing we received on the last day of our stay. The U.S. leaders ended our meeting by noon of the last day so we could sight see in Rome for a few hours. We were joined by Angela Hymel who is working as an au pair (nanny) for a family in Rome. It was a real delight to be with Angela for our final hours in Rome as we walked for miles looking at various sights. May the Lord be praised!

Dan Almeter is an Elder of the Alleluia Community, responsible for teaching and formation programs.

Baked Goods, Coffee, Beignets and Peanuts at the Fall Fare

By Ben and Clare Barrs

Cookies and pastries and pies, oh my! The Alleluia Community Fall Fare had a wide range of high end baked goods flooding the bakery and coffee stand tables. To top it off, we also had freshly made beignets and boiled peanuts! Thank you so very much to all of our bakers who rose to the occasion. Thank you also to Mike and Vera Freed and William and Anita McKie who stepped up to new positions of leadership over the bakery and coffee stand respectively. It takes a lot of bravery and faith to agree to these leadership positions.

Thank you also to the invaluable support from veteran Clare Sullivan who helped with bakery preparations. God truly blessed the yes from these brothers and sisters, and these two major areas of the Fare could not have run any smoother! People really do come from all around every year and count on buying their holiday baked goods from our Alleluia bakery. We have again lived up to our reputation.

In the midst of the chilly weather, we sure were thankful for those who made warm foods for us to enjoy. Mark, Debbie, James, and Kim Samaha prepared fresh dough and served up tasty beignets that sold out faster than ever. Bill Napier boiled peanuts over Friday night so we could enjoy that southern salty snack too. Bill also served by helping coordinate physical services for this event.

Of course, our Alleluia Fall Fare would not be complete without a "fare" of treasures filling our yard sale tables. Until the last collection day, we worried that we might not have enough collected to pull in a good profit. We were wrong to doubt! The Lord had His hand on the yard sale, and items poured in on that last collection day. We ended up with MORE than enough merchandise to give our yard sale a great reputation for the future. Thank you to everyone who donated such quality items!

The massive yard sale would not have been possible if it were not for the leadership and steadfast efforts of Lou Hymel. This part of the Fare uses the most manpower and materials, and Lou organized it in such a way that it came together like a well-oiled machine. Also, a major part of the yard sale

is pricing. Carolyn Clark and her team painstakingly combed through all of our yard sale items to make sure that they sold for appropriate prices. Thank you!

The Kids' Zone is one area we slightly expanded this year. Patti Doughty had a great vision for this. Her new addition of the treasure dig was a hit! Who knew digging in sand could be so much fun? Free face painting and a kids' store that boasted new merchandise every hour completed the Kids' Zone. Thank you, Patti, for all you did to make that vision a reality!

One of the most beautiful things of this Fare is witnessing the entire community — hundreds of men, women, and children — working together to pull off a large scale fundraiser without a hitch. Everyone anticipated each other's needs and gave a hand. The Fall Fare without a doubt cannot be pulled off by a team alone. It needed you, and you came through. Thank you brothers and sisters! Each and every Support Group worked to make this happen!

In particular, there are several others who went above and beyond that we should thank:

*Rachel Balducci created a festive atmosphere with Fall Décor—and on a budget too! She took what was given to her and made it beautiful.

*The entire Middle School student body pitched in to help with the setup Friday afternoon and really filled a great need.

*We certainly would not have had a successful Fare if it were not for the publicity efforts made by Sarah Dooley and her team of Ben and Morgan Maniccia. They tapped into every outlet they could from radio commercial to church bulletins and everything in between.

*Barbara Harshman saved us on several occasions—helping to get SG mail and Dove announcements out right at the deadlines.

*One particularly essential job that most people don't notice unless it goes poorly is parking. Dave White did an incredible job organizing this. He began prepping the parking areas as early as Thursday to make it a hassle free situation for everyone.

*We don't know how she added this to



A view of the Kids' Zone

her to-do list, but Judy Hartney managed to put together our mini silent auction. This small auction of only three items yielded a sizable \$300.

*The Fare would have been much more difficult if we had to set up everything the morning of. Thankfully, we had Bill Phillips and Tony Cummings who took care of overnight security. Their crew monitored all of our goods in the freezing parking lot Friday night. That's dedication!

*Another behind the scene job that many people may not notice unless it's forgotten is trash collection. Nathan Krupa headed this up and also helped with the general cleanup too.

*Bob Finnegan and the Alleluia A/V crew took input from last year and made the sound for the Fall Fare better than ever.

*Tom Jackson and his team of some alumni accommodated our power needs...this takes extra planning given our old building.

*Sue Hymel and Kathleen Kent handled all signage and created beautiful, functional signs.

*We would have been in trouble if Jill Dooley and Bill Phillips hadn't taken care of handling all the money for the Fare.

*Jim Dooley and our Elder in headship, Jerry Germann, were invaluable in giving advice and guidance through the planning stages of the Fare.

*Sue Alzheimer helped in coordinating yard sale pickups and many other secretarial tasks.

Overall, this was a successful fundraiser for our school, despite the literally freezing temperatures. Yes, we raised money, but even if we didn't, the time spent with each other, working together, fellowshiping, and sharing the warmth of God's love was reward enough. To God be the glory!