



Praying at Home

July 2009

What is prayer?

My "holy hours" will be made in the truest sense not during the peaceful hours of these pious devotions here in church. My real "holy hours" are those hours when sufferings of body and soul come to overwhelm me. Those hours when I call out to your Father, O Jesus, and do not seem to be heard.... These are the real "holy hours" in my life, those hours when your grace working in my heart draws me mysteriously into your agony in the garden. When those hours come upon me, O Lord, have mercy on me.

Karl Rahner

Morning Prayer

Jesus, Savior of every life,
as the morning star rises in our hearts,
you shed light even on our doubts
and our hesitations.

Brother Roger of Taizé

Holy Father's Intentions for July

Each month, the Holy Father asks us to pray with him by remembering his intentions in our prayer. These are Pope Benedict XVI's special intentions for the month of July.

General Intention:

That the Christians of the Middle East may live their faith in full freedom and be an instrument of peace and reconciliation.

Mission Intention:

That the Church may be the seed and nucleus of a humanity reconciled and reunited in God's one and only family, thanks to the testimony of all the faithful in every country in the world.

A Prayer for Pilgrims and Travelers

My Lord God,
I have no idea where I am going
I do not see the road ahead of me.
I cannot know for certain where it will end.
Nor do I really know myself,
and the fact that I think I am following
your will does not mean that I am actually doing so.
But I believe that the desire to please you
does in fact please you.
And I hope that I have that desire in all that I am doing.
And I know that if I do this,
you will lead me by the right road
though I may know nothing about it.
Therefore will I trust you always
though I may seem to be lost
and in the shadow of death, I will not fear,
for you are ever with me
and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.

Thomas Merton

A Summer Meal Prayer

God of light and love,
we thank you for this season of summer,
a time of warmth, of growth, and of fun.
May the brightness of the sun remind us of your love.
May the coolness of the waters renew us in your care.
As we rejoice in this season,
help us to be grateful for all your gifts,
especially the food on our table.
Make us mindful too of those who are hungry,
and teach us how to care for them.
We ask this through Jesus, our light and our Lord. Amen.

From *Let's Say Grace* by Robert M. Hanna

A Novena Prayer to our Patron, Saint James the Greater

Pray a special novena in honor of our patron, Saint James! Begin the novena on Thursday, July 16. Conclude it with the festive celebration of our patron on Sunday, July 26.

O glorious Saint James,
patron of pilgrims and our patron,
remember your children through the ages.
Pray for us, that we may be filled with faith like yours.
Pray for us, that we may have the courage
to drink the cup the Lord gives to us.
Pray for us, that we who journey as pilgrims in this world
may come at last to the heavenly kingdom of life, love, and light,
where with you and all God's holy ones,
we will behold the Lord face to face. Amen.

A Prayer for Evening

Jesus,
peace of our hearts,
in our nights as in our days,
in the hours of darkness as in those of bright light,
you knock at our doors and await our response.

Brother Roger of Taizé

Praying to Mary

Mother of Jesus Christ,
I do not come to pray.
I have nothing to offer, nothing to ask.
I come, Mother, only to look at you.
To look at you, to weep for happiness,
knowing that I am your child,
and that you are there....
Because you are always there,
Simply because you are Mary,
Simply because you exist,
Mother of Jesus Christ, thanks be to you!

Paul Claudel