

The Church of Saint Pascal Baylon

Fr. John Mitchell, Pastor: Sunday Homily Notes

1757 Conway Street • St. Paul, Minnesota 55106 • phone 651.774.1585 • e-mail church@stpascals.org

Homily Notes – 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time – July 22, 2018

1. Prayers for my mother; in hospice care; passed away at 1:00am today
2. Sitting with my mother and not speaking words, just being with each other over the past two weeks
3. Do you take time to just be with your loved ones? When we love someone, we spend time with them; we spend time talking to them and listening to them, and sometimes we are just with them and say no words at all
4. In the Gospel reading this weekend from Mark, Chapter 6, Jesus invites his Apostles to come away by themselves with Him to a deserted place and rest awhile.
 - This was a busy time in their ministry as the Gospel passage tells us “People were coming and going in great numbers, and they had no opportunity even to eat.”
 - Jesus saw the importance of getting away from the crowd to be with his Apostles; He wanted time with them alone, to pray with them, to be with them
5. This Gospel passage invites us to consider how we pray and when we pray and maybe to renew our priorities and give time to God each day for quiet prayer, for spoken prayer, for coming away by ourselves to a quiet place to be with God in prayer
6. What does prayer time with God look like?
7. St. Therese of Liseaux, also known as the Little Flower, once wrote, “prayer is a surge of the heart, it is a simple look turned toward heaven, it is a cry of recognition and of love, embracing both trial and joy.”
8. “Prayer is the raising of one’s mind and heart to God (St. John Damascene).
9. Catechism: “Jesus Christ comes to meet every human being. It is Jesus who first seeks us and asks for a drink. Jesus thirsts; his asking arises from the depths of God’s desire for us. Whether we realize it or not, prayer is the encounter of God’s thirst with ours, God thirsts that we may thirst for God”. (CCC 2560).
10. Prayer is sometimes done with words: Our Father, Hail Mary, Rosary, Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel, the prayer of St. Francis
11. Prayer can also be done in our own words – speaking to a friend or family member
12. Prayer can also be without words
13. It’s never too late to start a routine of prayer if you haven’t developed one before now
14. It’s never too late to renew your habit of prayer if you’ve fallen away from it
15. It’s never too late to learn new ways to pray even if we have a good routine of prayer
16. It doesn’t so much matter the HOW of prayer as much as THAT we spend time with God each day, away from the crowd, away from our busy life

-Father John Mitchell