

Homily: 29<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary time, year C

There was a story of a man who prayed religiously without ceasing to God. Even during the celebration of the Mass, he always said his rosary. He walked to the altar of the church with his knees on the floor. He told his neighbors that he wants God to be the one to answer all His prayers.

A typhoon came into their village and flooded the whole village. It was reported that a tidal wave would come and sweep the entire village. A policeman came informing the village people about the coming tidal wave and the typhoon but this man did not mind the policeman would not leave the place because he wanted that God would be the one to answer his prayers.

The flood became bigger and bigger, so a boat sailed on the water informing again this person to vacate the place but he wanted that God would be the one to answer his prayers. Later, when the water level was already on the roof, a helicopter came in order to rescue this man but he did not listen to the request. So he died and went into the gate of heaven.

He was angry with St. Peter because God did not answer his prayers. St. Peter said: "We did answer all your prayers. We sent you a policeman, a boat and a helicopter, but you did not listen to all of them. It's not our fault."

Why does God want us to pray? Strictly speaking, God has no need of our prayers. God knows what we want in our hearts before we ask for them. Jesus

**Himself prays. He prays when He was baptized in Jordan River and the heavens open (Luke 3:21). He prays in the desert after His baptism and overcomes devil's temptations by His prayers. Even if He is so busy with His ministry, he finds time pray. We pray to God in order to be in union with Him and to strengthen with our faith.**

**In today's gospel, Jesus relates the parable about the woman who continues to plead with the judge that he render a just decision in her favor. She was persistent and finally the judge decided in her favor. Jesus teaches us to also be persistent. We, as individuals, must have that same persistence. Jesus promises,**

**To the young people here today I say, "Yes you may have problems. Your mom and dad don't understand you ..... school is difficult ..... you don't have many dates." Those are the problems millions of teenagers have had since the beginning of time.**

**The adults also have problems. "I'm worried about my children and how I can protect them from the horrors that are on television, in the movies and, it seems everywhere we turn." If you're a senior citizen you may have health problems. Maybe you can't swing the golf club as well as you did when you were 40.**

**In the gospel we hear that God is not deaf to our problems. The Lord is not deaf to the prayers of the orphans or the widows.**

**He is not deaf to our petitions. If we just stop and think of what He has given us we quickly come to the conclusion that we have been blessed beyond the dreams of most of the people who have ever lived on this earth. We have food, we have wonderful housing, we have loving families and most of all, we have the freedom to worship our God. That is not the case for the majority of the people who live on this planet.**

**All our troubles may not go away, life will not become a bowl of cherries but, like the woman in today's readings, if we persevere, if we continue to ask Him for His help, it will come. But we must take the initiative. As you receive communion, ask Him for help in one particular situation in which you find yourself. Be specific. Do everything you can to help yourself but put Him in the equation. That's what He asks us to do. He will not disappoint us.**