

# CATHEDRAL FAMILY LETTER

OCT 16, 2011

Cathedral of the Risen Christ

## A LETTER FROM MSGR. TUCKER

I knew that there would be an issue of writer's block, but I thought it wouldn't happen until later in the year. I thought about many different things, but my thoughts didn't solidly form until the other day when I was driving. I began to pray the rosary, and I started to ask for help with this article.

I started thinking about my last article, the thought that came to me was that I said the goal, hope and desire for these letters is to help us to focus on becoming holy through this year.

I started thinking about October, and what is significant about this month and examples that we have to follow.

Immediately my thoughts went to the Saints and their example. We recently celebrated the feast of St. Therese (Oct 1st). As I thought about her life, I remembered that she proposed the "little way" to holiness. She said that it is in the little things that we do, doing them to the best of our ability and with great love, that we become sanctified.

I wasn't satisfied with that answer to my prayer, so I asked the question, "what are the little things that we need to do, to become closer to God?"

Then the answer came, that we need to pray. Prayer has been a hallmark of Cathedral Parish for over 50 years. There has been a person in the church every hour of the day praying for over 50 years.

What is prayer? A simple

answer to this question is found in the Catechism and it comes from St. Therese. She said, "For me, 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".

Her simple definition touches the most important aspect of prayer. Prayer is a surge of the heart, an expression that comes from the very depth of our being, holding nothing back and sharing it with the one who knows us and made us.

She reminds us that prayer is communication with God as our hearts turn toward heaven embracing both trial and joy.

There are many ways that people pray. There are formal prayers that we love to say, there are people who love to meditate on the Scriptures and listen to God speak to them, there are those who like to sit in quiet and be in the presence of their loving God.

The truth is we were made by God, and we are destined to enter eternity at the end of our days, and we hope to be with God for eternity, so we were made to pray.

When I was in McCook, I would visit the nursing home on First Friday's, there was a man that lived there and he was always praying the rosary when I entered his room. He always asked me the same question, and he always gave the same answer? He would say, "Father, do you know why I pray the rosary?" And I would say, "no why?" And he

would say, "I don't want to get to heaven and have God say, 'Who are you?'"

For us as a Parish Family the simplest thing we can do to become holy is to pray. Prayer changes our lives and it will change the lives of those we pray for.

If you are not praying now, begin by simply thanking God before and after your meals. Pray at night before you go to bed, thanking God for the day and asking Him for help for tomorrow.

As you develop the habit of prayer, read and meditate on Scripture and spiritual books. Most importantly come and spend time with Jesus in the Church. There is no better place to pray than in front of the tabernacle in the Church. Jesus patiently waits for us to visit Him. When we accept the invitation to come and spend one hour with him, we begin to realize how much time has been wasted.

Sitting or kneeling before the tabernacle is that "simple look turned toward heaven" that St. Therese is talking about. Bring your joys, your trials, your successes and failures, your calm and anxiety, placing them before Jesus letting Him gently touch your heart.

Everyone has prayer intentions. "The family that prays together stays together," so let us pray for one another's intentions, offer Masses for each other, and make sacrifices for each other, with the intention that together we may grow closer to God!



*The Holy Family*