

# Prayer Power

## Vocation Vigil



Summer 2004

### Prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make me an  
instrument of your peace,  
Where there is hatred, let me  
sow love;  
...where there is injury,  
pardon;  
...where there is doubt, faith;  
...where there is despair,  
hope;  
...where there is darkness,  
light;  
...where there is sadness, joy;

Divine Master, grant that I may  
not so much seek  
...to be consoled  
as to  
understand;  
...to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we  
receive;  
...it is in pardoning that we are  
pardoned;  
...and it is in dying that we are  
born to eternal life.

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## **Your Invisible Partner**

**A**re you so busy getting things done you don't have time to pray? Quiet prayer slows us down and helps us focus on what's really important. It's a beautiful way to bring balance into your life.

Mr. Taylor was a "do it yourself, get it done guy." However, after he struggled and failed in several business ventures, he turned to God and prayed, "Okay, I give up trying to do it all by myself. I invite you Lord to be my partner in all future endeavors.

Mr. Taylor's next venture was a small department store. True to his promise, this time he asked the Lord to be his partner. Before he made any decisions he prayed for God's wisdom and moved forward with ease and peace, knowing that with God as his partner, he was on the right path. As a result, the store flourished, and Mr. Taylor went on to create a hugely successful chain-Lord and Taylor.

Trying to do everything alone leads to frustration, exhaustion, and failure. While it is important to be responsible and self-reliant, it is equally important to place our needs before God in prayer, ask for His help and listen for His response.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament gives us a special opportunity to remove ourselves from our busy life and sit quietly in the presence of Jesus Christ. Free from interruptions we can talk things over with Him. God will not necessarily take away our problems but He will give us insights and wisdom on how to handle them.

Make Our Lord your partner in all you do. Treat yourself to the wonderful gift of spending time with your partner in His Presence in the Eucharist.

### **Psalm 136:4-9;23-26**

Who alone has done great wonders,  
God's love endures forever;

Who skillfully made the heavens,  
God's love endures forever;

Who spread the earth upon the waters,  
God's love endures forever;

Who made the great lights,  
God's love endures forever;

The sun to rule the day,  
God's love endures forever;

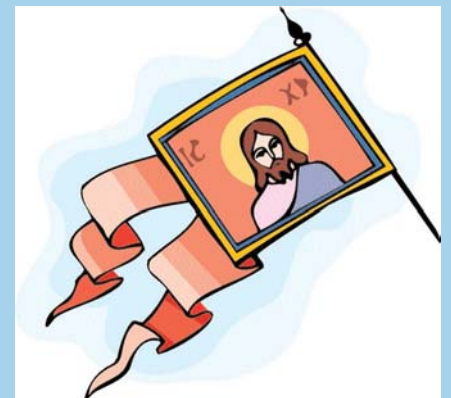
The moon and stars to rule the night,  
God's love endures forever;

The Lord remembered us in our misery,  
God's love endures forever;

Freed us from our foes,  
God's love endures forever;

And gives food to all flesh,  
God's love endures forever;

Praise the God of heaven,  
God's love endures forever.





## ***From the Desk of Peggie O'Neill***

June 28, 2004

Dear Prayer Power Family

Are you worried about terrorists, the world situation and the problems in the church? Our Lord tells us what to do. **"Come to me all of you who are tired from carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest."** (Matt: 11:28) Fear and worry are heavy loads, which create stress, frustration and anger. Jesus invites us to bring all our worries, problems and concerns to him.

J.R.R. Tolkien the author of "The Lord of the Rings", "The Hobbit" knew the heavy load of fear. His father died when he was four and his mother died when he was 12. He fought on the Western Front during World War I. All but one of his close friends was killed in action. He caught trench fever, which plagued him the rest of his life. But through it all the Eucharist sustained him. His mother loved Our Lord in the Eucharist and often took her sons to visit the Blessed Sacrament. She passed on this great love to them.

In later years, Tolkien wrote his sons the following, "Out of the darkness of my life, so much frustrated, I put before you the one great thing to love on earth: the Blessed Sacrament.... There you will find romance, glory, honor, fidelity and the true way of all your loves upon earth"

Prayer Power's mission is Eucharistic Adoration. We commit to spending an hour a month praying in front of the Blessed Sacrament for three intentions. 1) Christ centered families. 2) An increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life, holy men and women on fire with love for Our Eucharistic Lord. 3) Inspire others, as Tolkien's mother inspired him to have a deep love for the Eucharist.

The focus of this newsletter is Relax, Reflect, and Renew. You will read about Mary King and how much strength she gets from weekly Eucharistic Adoration. Father Roland shares how through quiet prayer he gets insights and wisdom on how to handle situations. I hope you will treat yourself to special time with Our Lord in The Eucharist this summer. Please remember to pray for our priests, vocations and Christ centered families.

May God bless you and your family with special time to pray, laugh and love and enjoy each other. I love you and thank God for you everyday.

Love

Peggie O'Neill

# The Guiding Light of Adoration

By Therese Walsh

Eight years ago when Mary King began attending weekly adoration at St. Ignatius Church in Yardley, Pa., she never imagined how deeply the Eucharist would sustain her through the tumultuous years that unknowingly were to come.

Mary became interested in adoration after participating in a Lenten retreat. During this retreat the participants were encouraged to consider attending adoration at their parish. Adoration is the practice of sitting with the Blessed Eucharist outside of the Tabernacle.

It was enlightening for Mary to listen to how adoration changed the lives of the people who devoted one hour a week to the Eucharist. "They were telling us how God's gift to us is himself in the form of the Eucharist. We all have the ability to be with God at anytime. We were urged not to ignore God because he is waiting for us to visit him."

These words really hit home for Mary. "It sounds very obvious now, but when you discover something like this for yourself, it changes you. One hour a week seemed like very little to sacrifice when I reflected on all the wonderful gifts God had bestowed on me."

When a 24 hour/perpetual devotion to the Eucharist is shared between parishioners, the church community as a whole begins to cultivate a deeper friendship and understanding with Jesus. Mary compares adoration to spending time with a friend. "It is a different experience than attending weekly mass. It is the difference between spending time in a group of friends or spending time one on one. The more time you spend alone with Jesus, the more you start to become like him."

Initially, Mary thought she was going as a way to show God her deep love and abiding gratitude however, she soon came to the realization that she was receiving a lot more from the adoration than she could ever give to God.

Mary began to experience a calming sense of inner peace and grounding. The more Mary prayed and the longer she went to adoration, the more wisdom, compassion and courage she incorporated into her life. Decisions she used to struggle with seemed clearer. "We all need clarity and direction in our hectic lives. Adoration helps us to sort out our priorities and keeps us focused on preparing ourselves for our eternal life with God and not stressing-out over the misgivings of our short earthly life."

Shortly after attending adoration Mary began to wonder what her cross in life would be. She started to feel that God was preparing her for something big. Her courage was tested in December 2003 when Mary was diagnosed with breast cancer. "Because of the strength of my faith and because of the enormous outpouring of love from my family, friends and church community, I have taken my cross and I am walking with God."

"I believe that God does not give you suffering, he helps you through it. By spending individual time with God at adoration, the closer I became to him and the more I wanted to live his gospel."

Mary has received so much love from so many people that she feels his presence in this love. "All this love that I have received because of my cancer is worth far more to me than this suffering."

There are many days when Mary is not in the mood to go to adoration because of the demanding schedule required of a mother of five children, but she has never succumbed to the temptation to skip. She always feels better about life when she leaves and she never leaves not grateful for having gone.

"I truly believe in my heart, in my soul and in my mind that I would not be this strong today if I had not made the commitment to weekly adoration. It is very surreal to selflessly surrender your fears and put your faith in God."



The King Family

# "The Character of Priesthood. I Just Love It"

By Laura Mirigliani

Over the course of the last five years that Father Roland Slobogin has been a "twin pastor" at St Francis de Sales and Most Blessed Sacrament Parishes, he has seen a lot of changes and has been pulled in many directions. However, despite the fact that overseeing two completely different and diverse parishes is overwhelming emotionally and physically at times, it has also been a tremendous gift. "The strength I get from my two communities, plus the very character of priesthood. I just love it."

Father believes it is important for all people, including priests, to take care of themselves by balancing all aspects of their life spiritually, emotionally, physically and mentally. If one of these is out of balance it affects the others. "There is a certain amount of stress needed for growth but it is important to know when the stress goes too far and to maintain a balance."

"When your time is very much demanded of you. You have a responsibility to make sure you are centered. You can easily find yourself being pulled here and there and losing a sense of your own togetherness. Life can do this to all of us whether you are a priest, a parent or in the workplace. You realize the importance that religion, church and The Eucharist have on our center. It is from this center that we come together and it is from The Eucharist that we are fed."

Father believes people need to find a creativeness in their prayerful response and let the spirit of God generate that within them. He encourages people to find a place where they can be alone with God. Maybe by lighting a candle and being at peace to put your life in perspective and slowing down. "It is important to take the time and bring our lives before God and before Jesus."

"The basic idea of this interview is to turn our lives over in prayer to the Spirit of God and following this prayer. A lot of times in meetings I thought I knew the answers and I felt very strong in my opinions. Often times through prayer and meditation I realized I was wrong. The direction I wanted to take wasn't always the direction we should take. It was very humbling. We are all caught up in the direction of our work, but we also have the ability to see the deeper direction of the whole thing. We must stay alive spiritually."

We do this through daily prayer, not just vocal prayer but sitting quietly. This gives God the opportunity to give us insights about things that are concerning us.

When you are worrying about something or if you are struggling with different aspects of your life, "stand in quiet solitude and allow The Spirit to guide you. Give it time and bring it to The Lord."



**Father Roland**

**Father Roland puts the emphasis on our spirit and believes, "our faith enables us to be as young as our self-confidence, not as old as our fears: to be as young as our hopes, not as old as our despairs."**

*(Since the writing of this article, Father Roland Slobogin has been reassigned to Saint Charles Borromeo Parish in Drexel Hill, PA. )*

## A Prayer For Priests

"Jesus, Mary, I love You, Save Souls."

Keep them, I pray Thee, dearest Lord,  
Keep them, for they are Thine -  
Thy priests whose lives burn out before  
Thy consecrated shrine.  
Keep them, for they are in the world,  
Though from the world apart;  
When earthly pleasures tempt, allure, -  
Shelter them in Thy heart.  
Keep them, and comfort them in hours  
Of loneliness and pain,  
When all their life of sacrifice  
For souls seems but in vain  
Keep them, and O remember, Lord,  
They have no one but Thee  
Yet they have only human hearts,  
With human frailty.  
Keep them as spotless as the Host,  
That daily they caress;  
Their every thought and word and deed,  
Deign, dearest Lord, to bless.

# RELAX - REFLECT - RENEW

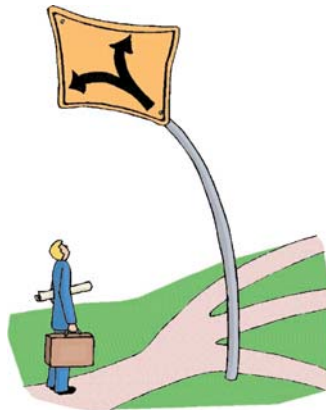
**H**ave you ever felt pulled one way and then another when you are trying to make a major decision like what job to take, what house to buy, where your children should go to school or what doctor to see?

There are times when we are faced with decisions that bring us to cross-roads in our life and force us to reflect on what's really important. When we make these decisions how do we know we're making the right one? Are we following God's will for us?

In 1973, Joe Paterno, the Penn State football coach encountered one of those cross roads in his life. He was offered the job of head coach for the New England Patriots with a one million dollar salary. He thought this was his life's dream coming true until he stopped, and reflected deeply on what he was doing now and what he really wanted to do.

He realized his real dream was being fulfilled. It was far more important to him to be affecting the lives of college students than the money and prestige of being a pro coach. He turned down the offer.

Although we may not face a major decision like Joe Paterno, we are constantly confronted with choices and decisions. Treat yourself to quiet time to reflect on what's important to you and then renew your priorities. **"Lord, bless me with the clarity of vision to discern your will for me and the courage of heart to carry it out."**



## Saint Ignatius' Six Decision Making Steps

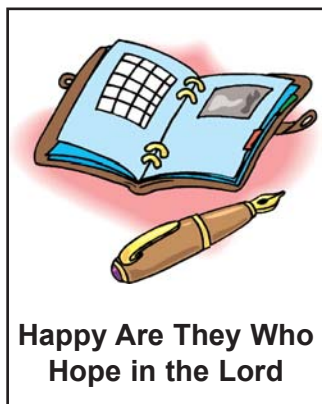
- Clarify the decision you must make and the choices that lie open to you.
- Recall that your decision should be in accord with God's purpose in creating you.
- Pray for the grace to be open to the right choice.
- List the pros and cons for each choice.
- Determine which choice seems more in accord with God's purpose in creating you.
- Ask God to confirm your decision by giving you inner peace.

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**Pray for Peace**



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Annual Prayer Power Mass**



**At Saint Charles Seminary  
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