

17th Sunday: Why is prayer important? (& Bicentenary of Bl. Monti)

Why prayer is necessary? Not because God wouldn't know about our struggles; or he doesn't need a little information from us to act. He knows everything. He knows what we need, even before we ask. Nor can we convince God, who otherwise is reluctant to help. We cannot persuade Him, to change his mind. Let's not forget: God is omnibenevolent, he is love throughout. So, the question remains.

We need to pray Bcs, Prayer opens us consciously to God and keeps us in steady personal relationship with him. That is why prayer is defined as "*the raising of heart and mind to God*". It is not informing, it's not persuading the Boss. It is raising our heart and mind to God; *it's a conscious aligning of our will to his will*. And what does this do? This certainly awakens a blessing in us. That's why persistence in prayer is such an important thing. Look at the friend who comes for help in the midnight: his persistence continues till he obtains!

Persistence in prayer, is an act of confidence and discipline of soul, that strengthens our relationship with God. In prayer, we need to hope and wait for God's time. We need that time, to comprehend what God is allowing us to experience. In fact, there is no such thing as "*unanswered prayer*". Instead, there can be unexpected answers to our prayers, which could sometimes be better than what we could expect for. After all, we are pleading with a God who loves us utterly. Therefore, let us keep praying, believing, keep hoping and never give up. God is already working in your life, in one way or other. He always answers your prayers. The Lord is faithful, always! He is good all the time.

Blessed Luigi Monti said: ‘prayer is the key that opens the treasure from heaven’

The Bicentenary of the Birth of Blessed Luigi Maria Monti, founder of the Sons of the Immaculate Conception (CFIC) 1825- July 24 - 2025

With great emotion and gratitude to God, we the CFIC celebrate the bicentenary of the birth of Blessed Luigi Maria Monti, founder of the Congregation of the Sons of the Immaculate Conception (CFIC).

Born and baptized on July 24, 1825, as the 8th of 11 children of Angelo and Teresa in Bovisio in the diocese of Milan, Italy, Luigi Monti is a source of pride and challenge to the Christian faithful, because his life, his example of faith and charity offer us a rich source of inspiration.

Ever an ardent youth, in his carpenter-shop he gathered together many workers of his age to give life to an evening oratory, taking the name of “The Company of the Sacred Heart of Jesus”, but his villagers called them “The Company of Friars”. This group of young men stood out for their austerity of life, dedication to the sick and the poor, and zeal in evangelizing those who had lapsed from the Church. They, being unjustly suspected of conspiracy, were jailed for 72 days, where they sang and praised God for the opportunity to suffer imprisonment. Luigi, the leader of the group, who (consecrated himself to God in 1846, at the age of 21) with team during 1855 cholera epidemic outbreak in Brescia, willingly accepted to be isolated in the local asylum with the sick taking care of them, before founding the Order in Holy Sp. Hospital, Rome

Bl. Monti’s life was a continuous gift of self, for the good of others. His charism and dedication inspired so many religious and lay people

around the world, leaving a legacy of love and service that continues to grow. His life was an extraordinary example of perseverance and dedication. He never gave up in the face of adversity and life's challenges. His fortitude and unwavering trust in God guided him through difficult times, illuminating his path with the light of hope and Christian charity.

Beatified in 2003 by St. John Paul II, his legacy lives on in the hearts and works of his followers, the members of the Religious Order he founded in 1957 in Rome. The many hundreds of CFIC missionaries, inspired by his example, tirelessly continue to minister by taking care of the sick and orphaned children in more than 30 countries in five continents, carrying out with love and dedication the mission that Luigi Monti entrusted to them. Through numerous mission centers and institutions around the world, their work testifies to the eternal validity of the values of compassion, service and love of neighbor. I am grateful for the opportunity in ministering at St. Bonaventure parish community. Amen