

Pope Francis on Prayer April 18 2023

The Art of Accompaniment..

“The Church will have to initiate everyone – priests, religious and laity – into this “art of accompaniment” which teaches us to remove our sandals before the sacred ground of the other.

Pope Francis calls prayer - an impulse within us.. - something common to all human beings - big change - in the evolutionary journey about 60,000 years ago in Africa- art forms cave painting - burying the dead – migration to tell their story to someone not present - something remained after death – they wanted something more-all human beings have within them a divine spark a soul an impulse that remembers with longing an original encounter and then goes in search of that encounter

God chose to reveal /herself to us - a world of gods. Pope Francis sees prayer as an I in search of a you - teach a child the name of a bird the child no longer sees the bird. Jesus reveals God not some tyrannical Lord but our friend who seeks to accompany

The beginning of this journey start by looking at the created world around us.

Bible = hymn of Thanksgiving With his word God calls to life - Pope Francis notes the beauty and mystery of creation create in the human heart the first impulse a prayer

Read Psalm 8

the human being is the only creature aware of beauty - contemplating creation reveals a sentiment of mercy. The great story of creation was written at a low point - prayer opens the door to hope - life despite its toils is full of grace Francis points out to us we are bearers of joy or bad news

Prayer begins by listening and trusting on a promise.

holy places about a sacred tree about an altar that was built - heavens populated with a variety of Gods - the story of Abraham - A voice that invites him to undertake a journey - an encounter with the word - When God speaks human beings become the receiver of the word no longer burdened by fate but by a promise which one day will be fulfilled.

**faith becomes history - the God of Abraham becomes my God
Pope Francis asked do we have this experience with God.**

Prayer is a battle of faith genesis 32:23-33

**Jacob is a second born son. Through deceit he obtains the blessing - Jacob like Abraham undertakes another long journey
prayer as a battle of faith - the triumph of perseverance
Jacob wrestles the entire night never letting go of his adversary- no longer master of the situation - God returns him to his truth as a mortal man -
the many nights of our lives dark moments of sin - of disorientation- but need not fear because God gives us new name**

Prayer is a cry from our heart Mark 10: 46-52

**Bartimaeus positions himself to meet Jesus – he hears Him and uses the only weapon he possesses his voice - beautiful stubbornness – asked to express his desire and the cry becomes a request Faith is having two hands raised up - humility is the foundation of prayer . Lack of faith suppresses that cry
We all have this voice within us that asks about the meaning of our
We are all beggars before God.**

Our Prayers..

Let us pray for Pope Francis and our Bishops that together they will continue to open the mysteries of creation for us we pray to the Lord

Let us pray for children who are born with the impulse to call out to God that our community will keep this impulse alive we pray to the Lord

Let us pray in the Easter season for those newly baptized that they will continue to hear the voice of God calling them to walk a new path we pray to the Lord

Let us pray for those who are still searching for Gods plan that they will be blessed with renewed hope we pray to the Lord

Let us offer our own prayers to the Father.... For these blessings we pray to the Lord.