Prayer of Saint Francis

Let the place I occupy be consecrated by a thought of You; let me make a home for You within me; 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; and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood 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.

- IN AFRICA AND ASIA, there are many who are desperate for an education. The numbers are large and the means are limited. Ours is the duty to instruct them, either by word of mouth or by the printed word. Books are the greatest contribution we can make at the moment. Any books that are judged worth-while for this purpose may be left in the boxes that have been set out for the Thanksgiving Clothing Collection. Workers will be needed for sorting and packing the books. Anyone who is interested in helping may contact Mr. McQueen in Room 35 of the Engineering Building. To date, more than a thousand books and magazines have been sent to ten educational institutions.

Martyrs buy their way into heaven with their blood. Pilgrims get to heaven on foot. Mothers earn their admission by picking up after sons who sometimes don't make it. Medics make it by means of their healing hands. Astronauts get up there by daring and doing. Priests get past the gates by offering the sacrifice of Christ and themselves. And there are countless other ways of getting there.

Most men are going to get to heaven on their knees. By praying.

This much is expected of all. True, God knows our thoughts. He knows everything we need; our aspirations. But He expects us to pray. "Ask and you shall receive, seek and you shall find." He expects us to pray with attention and devotion, and with perseverance. It takes a humble man to persevere in prayer until he gets what he needs. "The prayer of him who humbles himself shall pierce the clouds."

Some common mistakes in praying are these. Sensible satisfaction is considered by some as essential to good prayer. No, it isn't. Nor is it necessary to spend all day on those knees. It's a mistake too, to think that the only kind of prayer is the prayer of petition. Sure, you ought to pray for the friend you know is living in sin. You ought to pray that you might shake off the lethargy that keeps you and many others like you from growing in grace every day. But keep in mind that there are other forms of prayer. Do you ever say an occasional "thank you" to God? It's a form of prayer, the prayer of thanksgiving. And what about acts of love, and adoration, and reparation? Ever say any of these?

Of course, God in the Blessed Trinity should be the first object of our prayers. God the Father gave us life and preserves us in being. God the Son reopened heaven for us and regained for us the right to the glory for which we were created. God the Holy Spirit gives the grace we need to attain the end for which we were created.

How often do you pray to Our Lady who is our most powerful advocate at the Court of Heaven?

Judging from reports, there is a neglect on the part of more than a few, a neglect of prayer. Why? Is it due to bad habits developed before coming here? Laziness after getting here? Or just the aftermath of the Student Trip?

Get with it! Not because of any urging on my part, but because you have the intelligence to know what you ought to be doing. Most of you are blessed with more than abundant good health, too. So... get off your back and get down on your knees.