

*Celebrating Extraordinary Missionary Month October 2019...*

**Wednesday, 9 October 2019**

XXVII Week Ordinary Time C

Fr. Joshy Nelluvelil CMI, Rome

The apostles are impressed by the quality of the Master's prayer. So they request their master, "teach us to pray, Lord". Of course, they too pray, as every pious Israelite does. They pray in the morning, with benediction and the Shemà, they pray on the Sabbath day, listening to the reading and commentary of the Torah; just as Jesus does. But what is missing from them (and us) is that awesome, unsought, innovative meeting place; the secret place of dialogue between a Father and his Son.

Often, we are fascinated by those who (like the monks) live prayer as a daily and continuous dimension. We are fascinated by those who show us a different world, an inner world, which can change the quality of a person's life, sublime; but difficult to achieve.

Let's be honest, we don't know how to pray. We do not know how to do anything other than stuttering some requests, knocking timidly at the door of the Lord, unconvinced of what we ask; mistakenly believing that prayer is reduced to a request. It is not so: looking at the Master we realize that prayer, intimate dialogue with God. It is also thanksgiving, praise, intercession, request for forgiveness ... And we realize how tiny our prayer is, without horizons, without depth and intimacy with the Father. Teach us to pray, Lord, that is, teach us to have a correct idea of God and of ourselves, teach us to see things as you see them. And the Lord answers: when you pray, you say Father...

And the Lord gives us a prayer, par excellence, the prayer that illuminates our every day. This prayer should rise to our lips with continuous amazement. We repeat the prayer, with joy, the only one that has been given to us.

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