



A Newsletter from the Missions Office/Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States
Catholic Diocese of Columbus, Ohio

If God would tell you that He would grant any one thing you ask for, what would you ask Him?

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On behalf of His Excellency Frederick F. Campbell, the Bishop of Columbus, and Father Andrew Small, OMI, the National Director of the Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States, I would like to thank you for your prayers, sacrifices and financial support for the missions.

One night God appeared to Solomon. God told Solomon to ask for whatever he wanted and God would grant him whatever he asked for (Chronicles 1:17).

If God would appear to you and tell you that He would grant you any one thing you would ask for, what would you ask Him? Would you ask God for a lot of money and then call your lawyer to handle your estate? Or, would you ask for good health and long life? What would you ask God?

Solomon did not ask for power. He did not ask for wealth. He did not ask for good health or, long life. No, he asked for nothing of that sort. How long did Solomon ponder before telling God what he wanted? We do not know.

But we know what Solomon asked for. He asked for wisdom. Wisdom? Why wisdom? Why did he not ask for something really big,

like winning a super lotto? But wisdom? That's sounds silly or childish. Wisdom sounds boring or abstract or impractical.

Or is it? Wisdom has to do with an understanding heart; it enables one to see things accurately, to see things as they actually are, to distinguish what is real from what is fake; it enables one to discern what is good from what is bad, to assess what is important and what is trivial.

Our culture overvalues wealth. One is successful if one makes a six-figure income, or if one lives in an upper class neighborhood, or if one wears designer clothes or drives a new and expensive car. Also our culture overvalues athleticism, prestige, positions and titles, among other things.

At the same time our culture undervalues character, honor, integrity, and above all, faith. That's not wise. That's foolish.

Solomon was wise. He asked for wisdom. Wisdom enables one to understand that the treasure buried in the field or the pearl of great price is worth giving up everything for (Matt. 13:44-46); that the treasure or the pearl is God.

Wisdom enables one to grow in the knowledge of God – not merely the knowledge about God, but a personal, intimate, and

faithful friendship with God. Friendship with God is of more importance than all else in life.

Unfortunately, we do not believe it. If we believed it, we would not put God on our schedules, but arrange our schedules around God.

If we believe that our relationship with God is of the highest importance, we would set aside significant time for prayer and meditation; we would make time to speak and listen to God by reading His word.

We need wisdom to realize that we need God; that in our hearts, there is an infinite longing for love and that only God can satisfy that longing; that there is an infinite hole in our hearts that only God can fill.

We need wisdom to realize that there is no one more important than God - that no one has done what God has done for us: that no one has suffered and died for us as Jesus did on the cross; that no one has ever destroyed the power of death for us as Jesus did in His resurrection; that no one has ever promised us everlasting life; and that no one has given us grace and strength every moment of our life on earth.

Let's be wise - let's ask God for wisdom!

Pope John XXIII's Sense of Humor

A reporter asked him, "How many work at the Vatican?" The Pope replied: "Half of them."

While walking in the streets of Rome he overheard a woman say to another woman, "My God, he is fat". The Pope overheard, turned around and said: "Madame, I trust you understand the papal conclave is not a beauty contest".

As a Papal Nuncio at a dinner in Paris he was seated across from a woman wearing a low cut dress that exposed a good deal of her cleavage. Someone turned to him and said: "Your Eminence, what a scandal. Are you embarrassed that everyone is looking at the woman?" He said: "Oh no. Everyone is looking at me to see if I am looking at her".

The Pope was visiting a hospital called "Holy Spirit Hospital". A nun at the hospital introduced herself saying, "I am the superior of the Holy Spirit". To which the Pope said, "Well, I say you are lucky. I am only the Vicar of Christ".

Multiplication of Hosts

In 1848, a remarkable event took place that strengthened the resolve of the boys to remain loyal to the Oratory. It was a solemn feast day, most likely the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin. About 600 boys had gone to confession and wanted to receive Holy Communion. Don Bosco started Mass, convinced that the ciborium inside the tabernacle was full of consecrated Hosts. Actually, however, it was almost empty.

Joseph Buzzetti, the sacristan had forgotten to put a full ciborium on the altar before the Consecration. He realized his oversight only after the consecration.

As Don Bosco began giving Holy Communion, he was distressed by the small number of hosts for the large crowd at Mass. Saddened at the thought that so many boys would be unable to receive Holy Communion, he raised his eyes to heaven a moment and just went on distributing Communion.

Poor Buzzetti meanwhile, kneeling nearby, deeply regretted the mistake that caused such displeasure to Don Bosco. Imagine Don Bosco's wonder, and Buzzetti's as well, when the hosts did not diminish in number. Without breaking them, Don Bosco was able to give Communion to all the boys. The few hosts with which he had started, even if broken repeatedly, would have sufficed for only a fraction of the boys.

After Mass, Buzzetti, who had not recovered from his surprise, told his companions what had happened and proved it by showing them the ciborium he had forgotten in the sacristy. Some other boys, too, declared that they had noticed what happened.

Buzzetti often spoke of this happening to his friends, among whom we ourselves were present, stating that he was ready to swear to its truth. Don Bosco himself confirmed this fact much later on October 18, 1863.

As he was talking with a few of his clerics, he was asked about Buzzetti's story, whereupon a grave expression came over his face. After a long pause, he answered, "Yes, there were very few Hosts in the ciborium. Yet I was able to give Communion to all who came, and they were by no means few. By this miracle Our Lord wished to show us how pleased He is with frequent and devout Communion."

Upon being asked how he felt as this happened, he said, "I was deeply moved, but undisturbed. I was thinking to myself that the miracle of Consecration is even greater than that of multiplication. May the Lord be praised in everything", after which he changed the subject. Similar multiplications of hosts occurred at least 3 more times in Don Bosco's life.

Pope Francis' November Prayer intention:




That Christians in Asia, bearing witness to the Gospel in word and deed, may promote dialogue, peace, and mutual understanding, especially with those of other religions.

A joke a priest can tell...

It's game 7 of the NBA finals and a man makes his way to his seat at center court. He sits down and notices that the seat next to him is empty. He leans over and asks his neighbor if someone is sitting there. He responds, "No, the seat's empty." The first man exclaims, "What?!? Who in their right mind would have a seat like this for the NBA finals and not use it?" The neighbor responds, "Well the seat is mine, but my wife passed away and this is the first NBA finals we haven't been together." The first man responds, "I'm sorry to hear that. Wasn't there anyone else, a friend or relative, that could've taken that seat?" The neighbor responds, "No, they're all at the funeral."

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