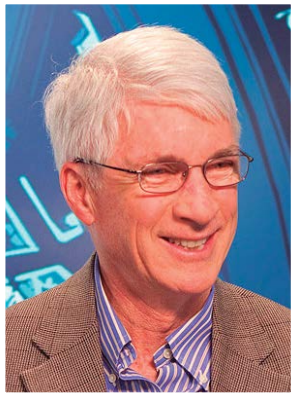




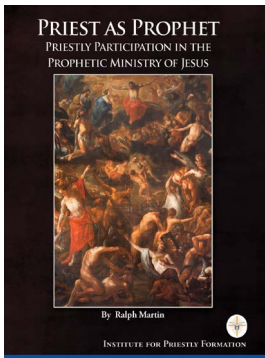
RENEWAL MINISTRIES

Catholic Renewal and Evangelization

AUGUST 2020



A letter ▶ from Ralph Martin



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the enclosed reply card for
**RALPH'S NEW
50-PAGE BOOKLET**

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Faithful Friends!

While doing research for an updated version of a book I wrote years ago called *A Crisis of Truth*, I came across a prophecy from Fr. Michael Scanlan, the former president of Franciscan University of Steubenville and a longtime friend of Renewal Ministries. It is amazingly applicable to what we are facing today. It discusses economic collapse, lawlessness, closed churches, parish and school closings, and calls us to not rely on these things, but only on the Lord. And then the last sentence really shocked me:

“When you see it all shut down, when you see everything removed which has been taken for granted, and when you are prepared to live without these things—then you will know what I am making ready.”

Whoever thought we would “see it all shut down” like we have on a worldwide basis recently? Who would have thought we would see social, political, and economic stability unravel in so many formerly stable countries?

It reminds me of Hebrews 12:25-29:

Do not refuse him who is speaking. For if they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less shall we escape if we reject him who warns from heaven. His voice then shook the earth; but now he has promised. “Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven.” This phrase, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of what is shaken, as of what has been made, in order that what cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe; for our God is a consuming fire.

And yet that last sentence of the prophecy contains a note of strong hope. The Lord foresaw this and permitted it, because He plans to use these difficulties to shake as many of us as possible loose from our hidden attachments, idolatries, and numbing entertainments. Indeed, when we see it all shut down, know that **He is making ready.** To pour out his Spirit?

To act? To judge? To manifest Himself in remarkable ways? To usher in the last battle? We will see. Our role now is to be ready.

Being ready means being in close, daily communion with the Lord and in supportive relationships with one another.

Fr. Scanlan’s prophecy and my commentary are published in this newsletter; I recommend meditating on them. Also, invite others to watch the video at www.renewalministries.net/prophetic-messages. As of late-June, the video has received over 200,000 views and has been translated into Japanese, French, Spanish, German, Italian, Portuguese, and Arabic. See how many views it has as of the time you read this!

God’s Word is going out. A warning is being given. A wake-up call is sounding. Do your part in passing it on and heeding it yourself.

As the prophecy says:

“I have spoken and it will take place. My word will go forth to my people. They may hear and they may not. And I will respond accordingly. But this is my word.”

It’s a privilege to be in the battle.

Three last things:

1» I recently published a booklet, *Priest as Prophet: Priestly Participation in the Prophetic Ministry of Jesus*, calling priests to greater courage in preaching. Consider getting a copy for priests you know; I think they will find it challenging but inspiring.

2» *A Church in Crisis: Pathways Forward* (an updated version of my book *A Crisis of Truth*) should be published by September.

3» The economic downturn has affected the ability of some donors to continue supporting our mission. If you can “step up” to help during this time, it would be wonderful.

Your brother in Christ,

Ralph Martin

Ralph



FR. MICHAEL SCANLAN'S AMAZING PROPHECY: AN URGENT MESSAGE FOR TODAY

— RALPH MARTIN —

In 1976, Fr. Michael Scanlan gave the prophecy that is printed on page three of this newsletter. A year earlier was the first big international Rome conference, and ten-thousand people were in St. Peter's Basilica for the closing Mass. Several very strong prophecies were given at that time that spoke of how a time was coming when the structures in place wouldn't be there any more, and how the Lord was going to use this time to draw us into a deeper union with Himself.

I think Fr. Scanlan's prophecy, which I recently discovered while doing research for a new book, is significant and amazingly resonant with what we have been experiencing with the whole lockdown, shutdown, not being able to go to churches, and economic difficulties. Some of this could be a little scary, but don't get scared. It's going to lead to tremendous love and tremendous hope.

When I read this prophecy, I was almost breathless! There are things happening today that weren't happening forty-four years ago that are a partial fulfillment, at least, of it. There's wisdom here for us. There's instruction here for us that's very relevant. The bolded text below comes from the prophecy itself.

“ Son of man, do you see that city going bankrupt? Are you willing to see all your cities going bankrupt? Are you willing to see the bankruptcy of the whole economic system you rely on now so that all money is worthless and cannot support you?”

When the coronavirus really first hit, and the stock market fell, and tens of millions of people in the US and all over the world lost their jobs, had their salary reduced, or got laid off, it was really a gut-check time. What are we relying on? Where is our trust?

I did some videos on our YouTube channel talking about the anxiety we have about our economic well-being, the anxiety and fear we also have about our health, and trying to re-center us on the promises of the Lord. Jesus says,

“Where your treasure lies, there your heart will be” (Mt 6:21),

and I gave some practical wisdom from St. Francis de Sales about how to see where our hearts are and how to handle our anxiety and fear concerning money, and the tremendous, wonderful promises of Jesus to provide for us if we seek first his kingdom.

“ Son of man, do you see the crime and lawlessness in your city streets, and towns, and institutions?”

Just last night on the news, I was watching riots in a particular town in our country. Here is the key: The world's going to be shaken. The Church is going to be shaken. Whatever can be shaken will be shaken, says the Book of Hebrews. But the prophecy continues,

“ Are you willing to see no law, no order, no protection for you except that which I myself will give you?”

The Lord wants us to come to Him with complete confidence, with complete trust that if we seek first the kingdom of God and his holiness, all these other

things will be provided as well. Not only the food, drink, shelter, and clothing we need to preserve life in this world, but the protection we need in the midst of chaos and the breakdown of law and order.

“ Son of man, do you see the country which you love and which you are now celebrating—a country's history that you look back on with nostalgia?”

This was the bicentennial of the US, the two-hundredth anniversary of the founding of our country, when he was giving this prophecy.

“ Are you willing to see no country—no country to call your own except those I give you as my body?”

A lot of us are really concerned with what's happening in our country. I'm talking about the US, but also Canada and many other countries around the world, including Western Europe. There's an aggressive secularism that wants to stamp out Judeo-Christian values, that's hostile to Christ and the Church, that wants to punish us, that wants to arrest us, that wants to remove us from social media if we say things

that are displeasing to the social elite, that wants to impose a control on the world and a censorship where they don't want the Word of God to be spoken anymore, but we need to speak it whether it's convenient or inconvenient.



THE PROPHECY

From Fr. Michael Scanlan | 1976



whether it's convenient or inconvenient. We need the courage of the Lord. We need the fortitude of the Lord. We need the Holy Spirit to give us that courage and fortitude, and we need to be in that right relationship with Him right now.

All of this is in the Bible! Jesus says we have no dwelling place here below; we have no lasting city here below. The apostles say it. Jesus, says,

"My kingdom is not of this world"
(Jn 18:36).

Our city is the New Jerusalem that already is being formed in the body of Christ, that's going to come down on the last day. We need to know that our primary loyalty, our primary family is our brothers in Christ. This is really important.

“ Will you let me bring you life in my body and only there?”

We need to be looking to the body of Christ in the Eucharist, but we also need to be looking to the body of Christ in one another and ourselves. One of the things that not being able to go to the Eucharist for so many months really created in us, our pastor at Christ the King in Ann Arbor explained many times when we were doing online Masses. He said, “Vatican II talks about four ways in which Christ is present to his people:

1. In a very special way in the Eucharist.
2. In the person of the priest.
3. In the Word of God.
4. In our bodies—which are the body of Christ.

continued on page 4

SON OF MAN . . . do you see that city going bankrupt? Are you willing to see all your cities going bankrupt? Are you willing to see the bankruptcy of the whole economic system you rely on now so that all money is worthless and cannot support you?

SON OF MAN . . . do you see the crime and lawlessness in your city streets, and towns, and institutions? Are you willing to see no law, no order, no protection for you except that which I myself will give you?

SON OF MAN . . . do you see the country which you love and which you are now celebrating—a country's history that you look back on with nostalgia? Are you willing to see no country—no country to call your own except those I give you as my body? Will you let me bring you life in my body and only there?

SON OF MAN . . . do you see those churches which you can go to so easily now? Are you ready to see them with bars across their doors, with doors nailed shut? Are you ready to base your life only on me and not on

any particular structure? Are you ready to depend only on me and not on all the institutions of schools and parishes that you are working so hard to foster?

SON OF MAN . . . I call you to be ready for that. That is what I am telling you about. The structures are falling and changing—it is not for you to know the details now—but do not rely on them as you have been. I want you to make a deeper commitment to one another. I want you to trust one another, to build an interdependence that is based on my Spirit. It is an interdependence that is no luxury. It is absolute necessity for those who will base their lives on me and not the structures from a pagan world.

I HAVE SPOKEN AND IT WILL TAKE PLACE. My word will go forth to my people. They may hear and they may not—and I will respond accordingly—but this is my word. Look about you, son of man. When you see it all shut down, when you see everything removed which has been taken for granted, and when you are prepared to live without these things, then you will know what I am making ready.”





I think we have arrived at a turning point in the history of the Church. Two roads lie ahead. Either we continue to pretend to save the Church through our restructuring efforts ... or we decide to let ourselves be saved by God acting in His Church. We are on the eve of a great reform. Historians will see this as a period of structural reform but it is only the saints who change things and bring reform. The structural changes follow.”

//Cardinal Robert Sarah

Please Pray...

For healing and unity within our nation and world, in accordance with the Lord's will.

For an increase of faith that the Lord is at work in all circumstances in our lives.

For the prayer intentions of all our supporters and their family members, especially as they face the challenges of illness and economic uncertainty.

IT'S TIME TO NOT DEPEND ON EXTERNAL THINGS, BUT DEPEND ON THE LORD HIMSELF.

... continued from page 3

1 Corinthians 6 says we are one body, one spirit with Jesus. We're members of one another. When Paul was converted on the road to Damascus, the voice that spoke to him from heaven said, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" Saul was persecuting Christians. Saul was persecuting the body of Christ. Jesus identifies Himself with us and the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit dwelling in us. We need to treasure that and value that, and if some time we're cut off from the Eucharist again, and if some time we're cut off from the churches again—the physical churches—we need to remember that He's with us, and He's with us in a very strong way in his Word, in one another, and in the indwelling Trinity in our souls.

“ Son of man, do you see those churches which you can go to so easily now? Are you ready to see them with bars across their doors, with doors nailed shut? Are you ready to base your life only on me and not on any particular structure?”

We love our churches. We love the buildings. Some of us for many generations have had family members go to particular churches. But all across the developed countries, churches are closing. Thank God for the churches and for the schools that are still open, but many people now can't afford to go to Catholic schools. We need to be prepared for a time when we don't have as many schools as we have now, and we have far fewer than we used to have. And we need to be prepared for a time when we don't have as many church buildings as we have, and we have far fewer than we used to have. We need to be ready for that time, which is coming. Whether it comes through disaster or not, it's just coming by what's happening in the world and what's happening in the Church. It's coming. We need to re-center our lives on the

Lord Himself, who is with us every day, and not be so dependent on a building. Be grateful when the buildings are still there. Be grateful when we can still go to the Eucharist, which is so special. But we need to not forget the body of Christ is not limited to the Sacrament. The body of Christ is also our brothers and sisters in the Lord.

“ Are you ready to depend only on me and not on all the institutions of schools and parishes that you are working so hard to foster? Son of man, I call you to be ready for that.”

We're being given an opportunity to get ready for that. Maybe we've been given a little warning here in the recent closing of the churches and the economic turndown even for a short time—a little warning shot across our bow, so to speak. The structures of the world aren't stable.

“ That is what I am telling you about. The structures are falling and changing—it is not for you to know the details now—but do not rely on them as you have been. I want you to make a deeper commitment to one another.”

We need to meet our fellow Christians in our neighborhoods. We need to meet our fellow Christians in our work environments. We need to start relating together as brothers and sisters in Christ. We need to have little house churches like the Catholic Church had in the beginning. All the Catholic Church had for the first three-hundred years were those churches—brothers and sisters gathering in small groups in homes, that's what the Church was until the persecution was lifted. We have to start to build those house churches again. We have to start building those neighborhood relationships. We have to start knowing who our brothers

and sisters in Jesus are, to get ready for a time when we can't gather in any other way.

“ I want you to trust one another, to build an interdependence that is based on my Spirit. It is an interdependence that is no luxury. It is absolute necessity for those who will base their lives on me and not the structures from a pagan world.”

This is not an option if we're going to survive the coming onslaught of secularization that's trying to shut down Christ in our culture, that's coming against the Church, that's coming against Christians, that's coming against the Word of God. This is not a luxury, to be in relationship with brothers and sisters in Christ. As Jesus says here, it's a necessity.

“ I have spoken and it will take place. My word will go forth to my people. They may hear and they may not—and I will respond accordingly—but this is my word.”

This is what Jesus says in Scripture, *“heaven and earth will pass away, but my Word will not pass away until every bit of it be fulfilled” (Mt 5:18).*

“ Look about you, son of man. When you see it all shut down, when you see everything removed which has been taken for granted, and when you are prepared to live without these things, then you will know what I am making ready.”

We've just seen it all shut down. It's almost like the Lord was saying, “You're going to be given a sign.” That sign didn't happen for forty-four years, but it's just happened.

When you have gotten ready, when you have responded to the warning by putting Jesus first in your life and seeking out your brothers and sisters in Christ and starting to get real in relationships

with each other, it says, “then you will know what I am making ready.”

Everything that's spoken about here is because of God's love. What is it going to take to wake up souls? What is it going to take to wake us up and shake us out of our complacency, to shake us out of our lukewarmness, to shake us out of our indifference to the things of God, shake us out of our worldliness and re-center our lives on Jesus and get into relationship with one another and be willing to be his witnesses in a hostile environment?

What is it going to take?

The Lord's going to do what He needs to do to wake as many of us up as possible. Some will pay attention, some will listen, some will awaken, some will get ready—and some won't. There will be very different outcomes, depending on how we respond to God's word or not. Not just in this prophecy, but in Scripture. This prophecy is bringing to the present a warning that is right there in the Scripture all the time. Jesus says, when the Master comes, don't be asleep (Mk 13:35-36). Not everyone who says, “Lord, Lord” is going to get into the kingdom of God. It's going to be only those who do the will of God (Mt 7:21).

The door is going to shut at a certain time. The door of grace and mercy is going to shut when the Lord returns, and those who have responded to grace and mercy are going to be welcomed into the Father's kingdom. Those who have not paid attention to prophetic warnings, not paid attention to prophetic signs, are going to be left outside, where there's going to be mourning, weeping, and gnashing of teeth. The door is going to close. Get ready.

I believe the Lord is showing mercy to us in this prophecy from Fr. Michael Scanlan. I think it's a prophecy that's starting to be fulfilled in our time. We need to take it seriously. We need to not live in fear, not live in anxiety, but live in the glorious freedom of the sons and daughters of God, who know that

the Father loves them and who know that the Father has providential care for them and will never let anything happen to us that He doesn't have a way to bring good out of and that He doesn't protect us in the middle of.

So, brothers and sisters, I'm excited by this word. I think it's a word for today, a word for us now. It's time to wake up. It's nothing different than what Jesus and the apostles have been saying for two-thousand years. It's time to wake up. It's time to get with each other. It's time to not depend on external things, but to depend on the Lord Himself.

Lord, thank You that the gift of prophecy is alive and working in the Church today. Thank You for Fr. Michael Scanlan. Thank You for us being able to talk about these things together and to encourage and build one another up.

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Prayer...

AN ART WE NEED TO LEARN

— Jack Lynch —

The following is an abridged version of the first of four talks on prayer Renewal Ministries' Producer Jack Lynch recently gave for St. Thomas the Apostle Church in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

WHY SHOULD WE PRAY? WHY SHOULD WE SPEND TIME IN PERSONAL PRAYER?

Let's first ask, "What is prayer?" The Catechism calls it "raising our minds and hearts to God." A prominent spiritual writer said it's more like "trying to raise our minds and hearts to God," which is a helpful distinction.

Prayer is for sinners like me, and presumably, like you. Jesus said, "I didn't come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance" (Lk 5:32).

I want to share three basic reasons for prayer:

1

The salvation of our souls.

2

God longs for us, and He is our deepest desire.

3

As a way of loving others.

FOR THE SALVATION OF SOULS

St. John Vianney said, "We won't find any sinner converted without turning to prayer. We won't find any sinner persevering without depending on prayer, nor will we ever find a Christian who ends up damned whose downfall did not begin with a lack of prayer."

C.S. Lewis noted, "Humanity is like a drunk on a horse. He falls off one side, gets back up and falls off the other side." Historically, we fall into two opposite sins:

1» **Presumption or complacency**

We think what we've done for God is enough; we can rest on our laurels and make it to heaven.

2» **Despair**

We think we've sinned so terribly that we can't get to heaven; God couldn't really love us.

Today, we've fallen off the horse on the presumption side. People think that since God loves us, virtually everyone goes to heaven. Jesus doesn't say that. He says the way to heaven is difficult and the way to hell is easy (Mt 7:13).

Jesus let Himself be crucified to help us make the right choice. He tells us to "strive"—to make an agonizing effort—to enter through the narrow gate (Lk 13:24). Hebrews 12:14 says to "strive" for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. John Paul II

tells us, "Training in holiness calls for a Christian life distinguished above all in the art of prayer" (*At the Beginning of the New Millennium*, 32)—meaning, prayer is an art we need to learn.

Let's begin by recovering an authentic fear of the Lord. Scripture exhorts us to fear the Lord:

"Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears to Him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard for his godly fear" (Heb 5:7).

Isn't that stunning? Jesus was heard for his godly fear. There's a holy, wholesome fear of the Lord that includes awesomeness and greatness, and which should help drive us to prayer, as it did Jesus in his humanity.

Sirach 1:11-13 describes fear of the Lord differently than how it's typically viewed:

"The fear of the Lord is glory and exaltation and gladness and a crown of rejoicing. Fear of the Lord delights the heart and gives gladness and joy and long life. With him who fears the Lord it will go well at the end. On the day of his death, he will be blessed."

There's gladness, rejoicing, goodness associated with fear of the Lord. Mary herself said,

"His mercy reaches from age to age for those who fear him" (Lk 1:50).

Receiving God's mercy and having a healthy, wholesome fear of Him go hand in hand. It's reverence and awe, but also a fear of offending Him be-

"We won't find any sinner converted without turning to prayer. We won't find any sinner persevering without depending on prayer, nor will we ever find a Christian who ends up damned whose downfall did not begin with a lack of prayer."

cause of the consequences. Jesus says,

“If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life maimed than with two hands to go to hell to the unquenchable fire” (Mk 9:45).

He is saying we need to be ruthless with cutting sin out of our lives, starting with mortal sin.

St. Paul explains what serious sins are:

“Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolators, nor adulterers, nor those committing homosexual acts, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor robbers will inherit the kingdom of God and such were some of you.” (1 Cor 6:8-11)

It’s encouraging that some Corinthians were like that, but they were getting back on track.

In St. Faustina’s *Diary*, Jesus says repeatedly,

“The greatest sinner has the greatest claim on my mercy.”

He is rich in mercy, which people choose by turning from sin. If they do not, He explains, “Souls perish in spite of my bitter passion. I’m giving them the last hope of salvation, that is, the feast of my mercy. If they will not adore my mercy, they will perish for all eternity. Tell souls about this great mercy of mine, because the awful day, the day of my justice, is near.”

A healthy, wholesome fear of the Lord should drive us to prayer. Together with the Mass and the Sacraments, prayer is where we find the grace, the strength, the help we need to stay faithful to the Lord amidst life’s trials and temptations. As St. Augustine says, “If you pray well, you will live well. If you live well, you will die well. If you die well, all will be well.”

It’s important to learn to pray well. Jesus tells the apostles,

“You should be awake, praying not to be put to the test” (Mt 26:40-41).

The Catechism says,

“Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil’ . . . such a battle and such a victory become possible only through prayer. It is by his prayer that Jesus vanquishes the tempter both at the onset of his public mission and at the ultimate struggle of his agony” (2849).

Even Jesus won the victory through his own prayer. The Catechism adds, “Prayer is a vital necessity. If we do not allow the Spirit to lead us, we fall back into the slavery of sin” (2744).

How can the Holy Spirit be in our life if our heart is far from Him? The Catechism quotes St. Alphonsus: “Those who pray are certainly saved. Those who do not are certainly damned.” This reminds me of a quote from the great boxer Mohammad Ali. Someone once asked him how he won so often: “The victory is won far away from the lights and the crowd on the road—in the pain and solitude of preparation and discipline.”

Indeed, Jesus’ victory is won far from the crowd, in the Garden of Gethemene, with his apostles falling asleep. We also need to enter the discipline, some of the pain, getting up early to pray, or setting aside something we’d rather do. That’s where victory is won—far from what people see in our active service.

The Catechism says, “By prayer, we can discern what is the will of God and obtain the endurance to do it” (2026). It’s important to discern the will of God because of this wake-up call from Jesus:

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of my father who is in heaven” (Mt 7:21).

We need to aim for fervor, for deeper conversion, for wholehearted discipleship, for Jesus tells us,

“How I wish you were hot or cold! But since you are lukewarm, I will spew you from my mouth” (Rv 3:16).

Aim for the bullseye of being fervent for the Lord, but this doesn’t mean we will always feel fervent. At times we won’t feel fervor or experience his presence, but we should still obey God, wholeheartedly follow our duties, and pray.

GOD LONGS FOR US. HE IS OUR DEEPEST DESIRE.

Our deepest desire is to be in union with God. The Catechism says, “Jesus thirsts. His asking arises from the depths of God’s desire for us. Whether we realize it or not, prayer is the encounter of God’s thirst with ours. God thirsts, that we may thirst for Him” (2560). That thought draws me to prayer.

Also, Jesus loves us with such tenderness! When Jesus approaches Jerusalem before the Last Supper, He knows it will be destroyed by the Romans. He weeps,

“Jerusalem, Jerusalem, how often I would have gathered you to myself like a mother hen her chicks, and yet you refuse me” (Mt 23:37).

Psalms 63:2 says,

“O God, you are my God whom I seek. For you my flesh pines and my soul thirsts like the earth, parched, lifeless, without water.”

Some saints call our longing for this kind of union with God transforming union or spiritual marriage. They’re confident that by God’s grace we all can reach this union, which in fact is the Lord’s intention for us while we’re on earth, and even the pearl of great price for which we should all be striving.

St. John of the Cross gets so excited at one point in his writing, he cries out,

“Souls! Created for such glories—what are you doing with your time?”

There are many things we must do with our time, but one thing He’s talking about is spending time with the Lord and growing in union with Him. This union is the fruit of prayer and service, inspired by God’s grace, and we are invited into it because He thirsts and longs for us. It’s a long journey—but one worth taking.

Saints tell us when we reach this state of union, it’s an ongoing, almost continuous experience of God’s presence in us.



Due to cancellations and some events switching to an online-only format, please visit our website for the most up-to-date calendar: www.RenewalMinistries.net/events

Continued from page 7

Prayer...AN ART WE NEED TO LEARN by Jack Lynch

When we're in a state of grace, God is always present in us, but we don't always experience it. In this transforming union, the saints say we do almost all the time. It yields a very deep and thorough transformation of our hearts and character; we're entirely filled with love and substantially confirmed in every virtue.

This depth of union with God also results in great apostolic fruitfulness; in whatever service we're doing, we see an explosion of fruitfulness. It produces a greater, richer, and purer delight in all created things, because we no longer cling to them. With detachment, we love them in a newer, deeper way.

AN ESSENTIAL WAY OF LOVING OTHERS

Jesus said, "Love one another as I have loved you." How did Jesus love us?

One way He loved his disciples was through intercessory prayer. Just before his crucifixion, Jesus said to Peter,

"Satan has asked to sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you" (Lk 22:31-32).

He didn't say: "But I've trained you, I've taught you. I set a good example for you." He did these things, but He said, "I prayed for you." So to love like Jesus loves, as He commanded us, we must pray for one another. Jesus lives forever "to make intercession for us" (Heb 7:25).

The Catechism states, "Since Abraham, intercession, asking on behalf on another, has been characteristic of a heart attuned to God's mercy. In intercession, he who prays looks 'not only to his own interest, but also to the interests of others,' even to the point of praying for those who do him harm" (2635).

Prayer transforms us, along with our service to the Lord. Transforming union produces in us a greater love and concern for others; our transformation in love, coming through prayer and service, helps us love others more.

When we're trying to establish personal prayer, we should establish a beachhead—which is a place during war where they take a bit of territory to use to fan out into more conquests of greater territories. Make a rock-

solid commitment to spend at least ten minutes in personal prayer daily. That should expand if we are growing in our love of God and in our union with Him, or if we are used to more, but it's a good beginning.

I'll close with another quote from John Paul II's *At the Beginning the New Millennium*:

"It would be wrong to think that ordinary Christians can be content with a shallow prayer that is unable to fill their whole life, especially in the face of many trials, to which today's world subjects faith. They would be not only mediocre Christians, but Christians at risk" (34).

So, let us pray.

THERE'S MORE!

View all four of Jack Lynch's talks on personal prayer at: www.renewalministries.net/wordpress/why-pray

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