

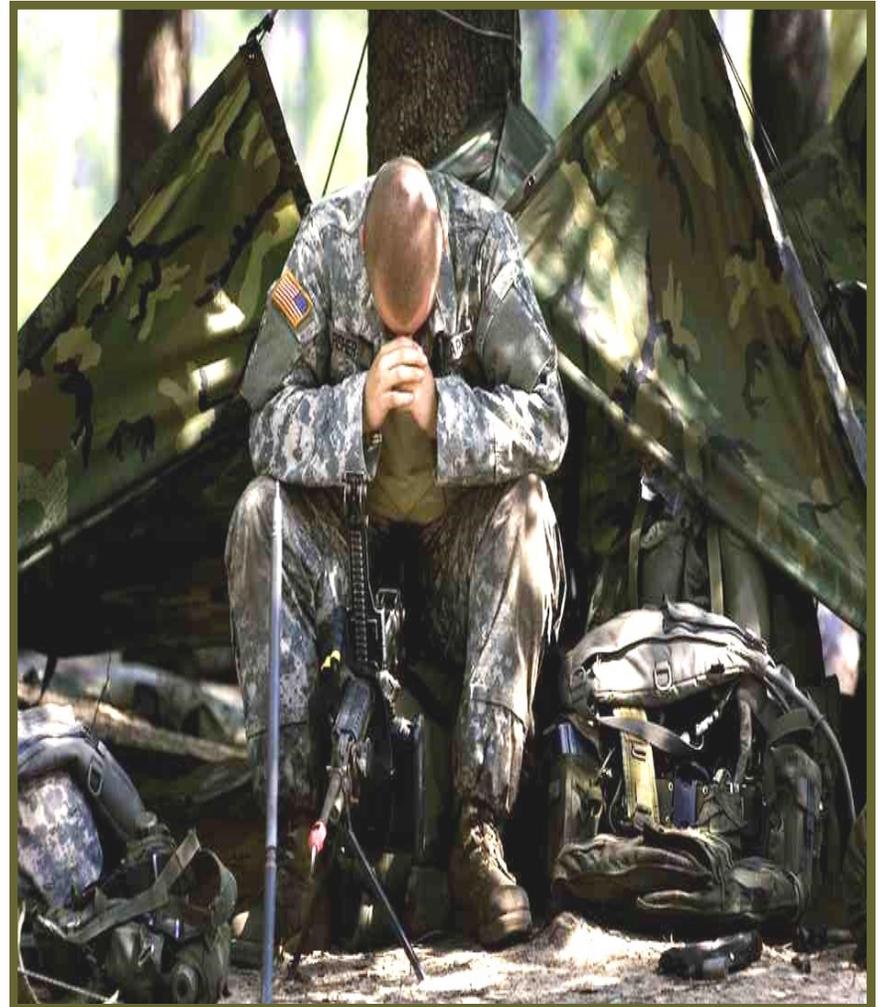


In the words of Pope Francis...

“Let us pray also for those who do not believe in Christ, that, enlightened by the Holy Spirit, they, too, may enter on the way of salvation. Almighty ever-living God, grant to those who do not confess Christ that, by walking before you with a sincere heart, they may find the truth and that we ourselves, being constant in mutual love and striving to understand more fully the mystery of your life, may be made more perfect witnesses to your love in the world. Through Christ our Lord. Amen”.

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Prayer During Suffering



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by Paolo Giovanni Monformoso



Let us begin with an observation: "He, Jesus, understands human sufferings, He has shown the face of God's mercy, and He has bent down to heal body and soul. **This is Jesus.** This is His Heart which looks to all of us, to our sicknesses, to our sins. Jesus is God, but He lowered Himself to walk with us. He is our friend, our brother. ... Our joy is born from knowing that with Him we are never alone, even in difficult moments. ... Let us follow Jesus! We accompany and follow Jesus, but above all we know that He accompanies us and carries us on his shoulders. This is our joy, this is the hope that we must bring to this world." (Pope Francis, Palm Sunday, 2013).

It is important for us to know that Jesus says that this is His duty towards us. He says: **"I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth"** (John 14: 16 – 17).

It is important for those who suffer to remember the above words, but when someone is suffering and does not understand that the senses of the human body are useless, then the requests for their usage ceases. One must also understand that this same dynamic is also valid for the soul: if the soul has not received, through Faith, the gift of the Holy Spirit, it will still have the capacity to understand God, but it will not have the light to know Him, or to live with Hope in daily life.

"The gift, which is Christ, is given completely to all. It remains in all places at our disposition and it is given to us in the measure in which we desire to welcome it. He will dwell in us in the measure in which each of us will want to merit it" (from the "De Trinitate" of St. Hilary, Bishop), then we can think that the Unceasing Prayer, the prayer from our Heart which we speak about, is a good means of reaching the Father through the "Porta Fidei," ("Door of Faith," [Acts 14: 2] {the door is always open...} – Apostolic Letter of Pope Benedict XVI declaring the beginning of a "Year of Faith," October 11, 2011); and to have Him in us for all time and in the measure in which we want to merit Him.

"This gift remains in us until the end of the world, it is a comfort in our waiting, it is a pledge of our future hope in the actualization of His gifts, it is the light of our minds, the splendor of our souls." (idem - Porta Fidei).

As Jesus then said to them: "Have faith in God. Amen, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be lifted up and thrown into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will happen, it shall be done for him. Therefore I tell you, all that you ask for in prayer, believe that you will receive it and it shall be yours. When you stand to pray, forgive everyone against whom you have a grievance, so that your heavenly Father may in turn forgive you your transgressions" (Mark 11: 22 – 25). It is Jesus who speaks directly about our common Father, in a prayer full of all which a son and a brother could desire for his friends. How simple it is to pray like this, how direct it is, familiar, and intimate.

It is Jesus again who gives us an example of how to pray by telling us also how to be free for prayer.

And now we too, volunteers of the Intercession of Prayer for those who suffer, let us imitate Him once again and never cease to do so.

