

Dear Padre,

My good friend is converting to Catholicism and learning things that I, a cradle Catholic, never knew. Why wasn't I taught these things? I'm embarrassed that a convert knows more than me.

Catholics receive most of their religious education as children. Even at the high school level, teachers are not able to explore religious topics with the same breadth and depth that occurs during the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) formerly known as RCIA. The Bible, for instance, is taught to children as stories, but adult faith requires us to read and understand Scripture as more than a story.

Adults learn differently from children; adults ask different questions. The facts and contents remain the same, but it's not possible for your early religious education to have the same content and depth as that of an adult who is converting to Catholicism.

Most Catholic parishes need a faith-formation program for adults who want to take their faith to a deeper level. If yours doesn't offer adult-education programs, many publishers offer programs that can be used for individual study. Let your own interest and curiosity be your guide.

Fr. Rick Potts, CSsR
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Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about Dear Padre.



A WORD FROM Pope Francis

Is your faith, is my faith tired? Do you want to reinvigorate it? Look for God's gaze: sit in adoration, allow yourself to be forgiven in confession, stand before the Crucified One. In short, let yourself be loved by him. This is the starting point of faith: letting oneself be loved...by he who is Father.

ANGELUS, OCTOBER 10, 2021

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Our Parish Community

July 24, 2022

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

Gn 18:20-32

Col 2:12-14

Lk 11:1-13



*[Jesus said,]
"And I tell you,
ask and you will
receive; seek
and you will
find; knock and
the door will be
opened to you."*

LUKE 11:9

DAZZLE JAM/PIKES

The Power of Prayer

"I'll pray for you." What a simple promise. When we make this promise, what do we expect it will accomplish? The sentence is really a statement of faith. It assumes a caring relationship between us and those for whom we pray. It presumes the other person trusts that we do care. Most importantly, it acknowledges there is so much we humans cannot achieve by ourselves, and so we turn in confidence to God that our needs are the concern of God as well.

Today's first reading is the startling account of Abraham's prayer for two sinful cities. He pleads with God to spare them for the sake of any righteous citizens found there. God is willing to do that if righteous citizens can be found. Abraham prays for people who do not deserve God's mercy. But there it was. God's mercy outstrips the most horrendous crimes. Abraham kept pleading, and God kept saying, "All right."

The same persistence in prayer is found in the Gospel passage. The message there? Keep at it. We don't know whether the praying will end as Abraham's did or like that of the determined friend in the Gospel. That's not our concern, because the way prayer is answered belongs to God, not to us. So then why pray if we can't be confident about the answer? Because we believe we are connected to each other, and together we stand in need before a loving God who wants the best for us.

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR Reflection

- ★ **How often do you promise: "I'll pray for you"?**
How often do you keep that promise?
- ★ **What do you hope prayer will accomplish?**