

# Dear Padre,

**I'm a recovering heroin addict. Do I need to confess my addiction? Addiction is a disease, not a sin, right?**

**R**ight, but addiction and using drugs are two different things. As you know, recovering addicts who don't use drugs are still addicts, and that in itself isn't a sin. But it's against the law to use heroin in the United States, so even if you never committed a secondary crime to get it, the "getting it" was a crime.

More important, though, the body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, and it's a sin to abuse ourselves in any way. Even if it weren't against the law, your use of heroin is certainly an abuse of your body.

The sacrament of reconciliation is more than just receiving absolution for sins. It also helps us look more deeply at our lives. Before you go, examine your conscience: Ask yourself how your addiction has affected your body, your life, your relationship with God, and the welfare of others.

If you bring honest answers to those questions as well as an open heart and an open mind, your conversation with your priest at reconciliation will help you heal your relationship with God and others.

You will also receive the grace to improve your life and do things like overcome addiction so you can be a better person.

Fr. Patrick Keyes, CSsR  
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## A WORD FROM Pope Francis

*I encourage all of you...to pursue your commitment to increasing awareness and offering support to those who have emerged from the tunnel of drug addiction....They need our help and accompaniment so that they in turn will be able to ease the pain of so many of our brothers and sisters in difficulty.*

ADDRESS TO CONFERENCE ON DRUG ADDICTION,  
DECEMBER 1, 2018



## Our Parish Community

October 16, 2022

Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

Ex 17:8-13

2 Tm 3:14-4:2

Lk 18:1-8

## Keep at It

**W**e ask something of God because we recognize that we are needy and unable to meet the need for which we plead. This itself is a good prayer because it acknowledges our human limitation, an acknowledgement that might be very difficult for us to voice. Such prayer is also an admission of our dependence on God and our trust in God's loving care. A prayer of petition can be profound. However, what is one to do when the request is not realized? Do you ask again? And if so, how many times? If it is never realized, do you stop asking? This is precisely the issue in today's readings.

Moses held his hands up in prayer, and he grew tired. His prayer addressed a community need—victory over the Amalekites—and so two leaders of the community assisted him so that the plea for help could continue until victory was won. The Gospel passage tells a story about a woman whose need of justice made her bold. As a widow in a patriarchal society, she had no husband to speak on her behalf. She had to plead her own case again and again until a just decision was delivered. The moral of these stories is clear: Keep at it!

What happens when our prayer does not seem to be answered? It is still a good prayer, acknowledging our fundamental need and God's loving care of us. The moral of our story is the same: Trust and keep at it!

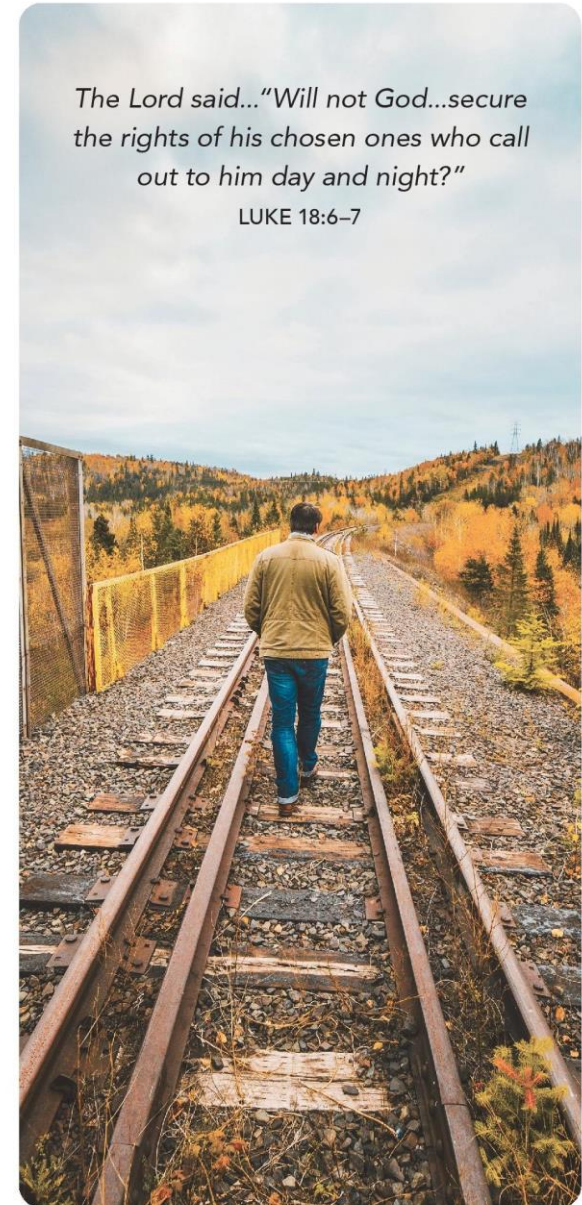
Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

## FOR Reflection

- ★ *Make your needs known to God and trust that God will provide what you really need. You might be surprised.*
- ★ *Be patient. God knows what you need.*

*The Lord said..."Will not God...secure the rights of his chosen ones who call out to him day and night?"*

LUKE 18:6-7



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