

August 18, 2020

Sometimes when I'm working on a sermon, a blog post, or Sunday mornings I feel rather empty with not much to offer. At the height of my desperation, I will often say, "Okay God, I don't have anything to offer, it's up to you!" By God's grace, I am able to utter some words or write some phrases.

I've come to realize that I often go about it the wrong way. I need to be asking God for help at the beginning of a task rather than in desperation when a deadline is approaching. Life is much simpler when we begin a task by saying something similar to what Thomas Merton wrote when he said:

*My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it. Therefore I will trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.*

We are never empty. There are times when we can feel empty. But at all times, we are filled by the Holy Spirit to do the work that God has given us to do.

Scripture and tradition reveal the lives of men and women who lived their lives boldly to express the glory of God in the face of persecution and fear. Men and women have allowed their light to shine and have given us the courage to do the same.

When we pray the Lord's Prayer, the prayer is introduced by the words, "as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say ..." Rather than repeating the words of the Lord's Prayer in a monotone voice, we are called to say the words and to live the words boldly.

As Christians, we have power beyond our imagination to do the work that God has given us to do. We can change the lives of the people that we encounter along the way if we dare to live our own lives boldly and let our light shine brightly. Most of this begins with invoking God's help in all that I do.

Begin your day and each task with a moment of prayer asking for God's guidance in those things that you are to do. Give thanks for the desire to please God in all that you do. Shout with joy that God is with us all the time and will never leave us to face our perils alone! Live boldly and proclaim the Gospel in all you do!