



PASTORAL REFELCTIONS ...

Cont'd from p. 8 of the "Outreach" Newsletter

THANK YOU!!!

Thank you — The Christmas Hampers/Flowers for the shut-in members of our Parish were greatly appreciated. The elderly, sick and needy are grateful for this humanitarian act of kindness and to be remembered during the festive season. This kind of ministry is very important, yet at times overlooked. Therefore we would like to thank all those who volunteered their time and expertise during the busy month of December making the Kolachi: Olga Alexandruk, Stephanie McNee, Sandra Hohol, Dobr. Marusia Lakusta, Evelyn Lysak, Marie Mailman, Victoria Zukiwsky, the three ladies from Ukraine (Olya, Olena and Luba). At this time, I would also like to express a sincere "Thank You" to George & Vera Tkachyk and also the drivers who made the deliveries: Michael & Olga Alexandruk, Michael & Carla Kozak, Clifford & Lesia Perritt, Robert & Kaye Lazaruk, Sharyn Johnstone and her father David Chomic,

... (Deuteronomy 6:3). For when he prayed that he might be allowed to enter the Promised Land the Lord would not grant him his prayer. For it was not expedient.

There is yet another reason that may cause our prayer to go unanswered: namely, that though we pray we yet continue in sin. What did the Lord say to Jeremiah concerning the Jews? *Do not pray for this people: seest thou not what they do?* (Jeremiah 7:16, 17). They will not give up their wickedness, He says, and yet you offer prayers for them? But I shall not listen. And if we pray against our enemies, God will not only not listen to us, but His wrath will fall also on us. Prayer is indeed a medicine. But if we not know how to apply it we cannot profit by its goodness.

How great a thing is perseverance in prayer we learn from the woman of Canaan, who in the end won from Christ what He had refused her at the request of the Apostles; and this she did through her persevering prayer. But we should ourselves seek pardon for our own personal sins, rather than that others should intercede for us. When we have to appear before men for judgment we need money, and we need to be servile, and to use care and diligence: for a ruler is not always disposed to grant favours, or even a hearing. So first we need to win over his ministers, and those who stand round about him; using money, and employing words in every kind of flattery, so that by their help we may obtain what we seek.

It is not so with God. When we ask Him for

something there is no need of intermediaries. And neither is He more disposed to help us because He is asked by others rather than by ourselves. For He desires that we should often seek things from Him; to do this is greatly pleasing to Him. For it is in this alone that He becomes our Debtor: that He is pleased as often as we pray to Him; and gives us freely what we have not loaned Him. And should He see one who is indeed praying to Him with fervour, He will Himself pay down for us that which He has not received from us. But should we pray in an indifferent manner, He will be indifferent to our request; not because He does not wish to give, but because our prayer is acceptable only when we pray to Him with all our hearts.



George & Vera Tkachyk and also the drivers who made the deliveries: Michael & Olga Alexandruk, Michael & Carla Kozak, Clifford & Lesia Perritt, Robert & Kaye Lazaruk, Sharyn Johnstone and her dad David Chomic, Walter Yadowski and Alex Lysak. Special thanks to Fr. Victor & Dobr. Marusia for their assistance, counsel and encouragement.

Thank you and God Bless all who volunteered.

Sincerely,

Pauline Lysak

THANK YOU!