

Meditation August 2015

Father Kolbe, Man Made Prayer.

"All these devoted themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers" [\[1\]](#) .

The first feature of the prayer "with Mary" is persevering prayer. The narrator, expresses this characteristic of community using a Greek word: (proskarterountes) that is meaningful to describe prayer is constant, assiduous, and unabated. It is a continuous prayer. Persisting in the action of the prayer is to ask and never give up, never to rest.... St. Maximilian affirms: "Prayer compels God." [\[2\]](#) .

Perseverance means also {1 to }cling to the Word daily, begin again and again every day. It means knowing how to endure in prayer so that it becomes contemplation. "Only he who endures - says Jesus - will be saved" [\[3\]](#) .Who knows how to pray well, also learns the law of pricelessness, of praise, of the time "lost" and offered to God.

The second characteristic of prayer with Mary is "harmonious," that is, made with one heart one soul. Mary becomes, in this way, perfect praying inside the ecclesial assembly.

Persevering and harmonious prayer are two characteristics very present in the life of Father Kolbe. Often his brother posed the question: "When and how to pray?" He responded with few, but clear, words: "**We must pray well and always.**"

St. Maximilian left us a rich collection of letters on prayer. Let us read an excerpt among many: "Prayer is a means, unknown, however the most effective way to restore peace in the souls, to give them happiness ... **Prayer revives the world** ... well pray, pray a lot, both with her your lips and with thoughts ... and our defects will weaken and gently, powerfully we move closer and closer to God ... To the extent that we burn more and more of God's love, we can ignite a love like the others ... " [\[4\]](#) .

Deeply convinced of the need to maintain a deep harmony between action and contemplation, between the life of prayer and action, Fr. Kolbe states: "Outdoor Exterior activity is good, but, of course it is of secondary importance and even less in comparison with the inner interior life, the life of meditation and prayer, with the life of our personal love for God " [\[5\]](#) .

Prayer appears as the inner dynamism of a the apostolate.

"In one department I saw a note in which it was written that it is not enough to do things, but you have to make them quickly. Working quickly is a good thing, but within certain limits. Easily, in fact, you can lose the spirit of prayer. We are not a secular shop, but a convent, so the priority must be the spirit of prayer. Doing a difficult job, you have to stop often to recite ejaculations or short prayers. Without the spirit of prayer, the soul can be convinced to do much, but it becomes like a ship that sails fast but is destined to go against a rock and crash." [\[6\]](#) .

So, we need to pray always and well, regardless of place and time, interior or exterior conditions. Prayer is the most important source of the effectiveness of any action. Well aware that behind an apparent success great barrenness can hide , Father Maximilian recalls the Word of the Lord Jesus:

"... I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him, bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing " [\[7\]](#) .The Savior does not say that without him we cannot do many things, but absolutely nothing. **The fruitfulness of the work, therefore, does not depend on capabilities or money, although even these are useful, but only and exclusively the on the union with God. "**

Immersed in God, he offers his life for a stranger.

Angela Esposito
Harmęże - Poland
1

[\[1\]](#) Acts 1:14.

[\[2\]](#) KW 634.

[\[3\]](#) Mt 24,13.

[\[4\]](#) KW 903.

[\[5\]](#) Ibid.

[\[6\]](#) 86 CMK.

[\[7\]](#) Jn 15.4 to 6.