

We continue our spiritual struggle, working to purify our souls from sins through prayer and confession.

On the second Sunday of Lent, we read the story of a well-healed healing who needed the help of his comrades to meet Jesus and receive healing. This event brought us the spiritual science that fasting is a time of spiritual healing because many problems and illnesses in life are the result of our sins.

Today's Gospel, the fourth Sunday of fasting, is about Jesus healing a young boy from the influence of an evil spirit. In this event, Jesus teaches us that fasting is a time of spiritual struggle with our own sins and the temptations of an evil spirit who wants to rule us. Such a struggle was experienced by the father, seeking rescue for his son. To cure him, his father sought help from the people, from the apostles, and then came to Jesus. At the request of the father to heal his son, Jesus responded with some regret, saying, " O faithless and perverse generation " (Mt 17:17). He pointed to the cause of his son's sickness - the sins of infidelity and corruption.

Once a seven-year-old boy was traveling with his father on a train. He calmly looked out the window at the field, the forests, the trees that were disappearing before his eyes. But suddenly the train with noise entered a dark tunnel. The boy became frightened, in the darkness he could not see his father sitting next to him. But he reached out his hand carefully, put his father's hand on it, and calmed down. "What do you want, my son?" - asked his father. "Nothing, Dad, I just wanted to make sure you were still here!" And he held his father's hand until the train left the tunnel. If we also find ourselves in this position, we reach out to our Heavenly Father in prayer and believe that He will lead us with darkness to light.

Recall what the Apostle Paul says about the Christian's spiritual weapon: " Finally, hold fast in the Lord and in the power of his power. Dress up in the full armor of God so that you can repel the devil's tricks. For we must fight not against flesh and blood, but against principles, against authorities, against the rulers of this world of darkness, against the spirits of malice in the heavenly spaces. That is why you must put on the full armor of God, so that in the evil hour you can resist and, by defeating everything, stand firm. Stand, therefore, girding your hips with righteousness, clothed in the armor of justice. holding his feet in readiness to preach the gospel of peace. And above all, take a shield of faith, which you will be able to extinguish with all the hot arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the spiritual sword, that is, the word of God " (Eph. 6: 10-17).

Among the spiritual struggles Jesus left for us: the Gospel and the Holy Mysteries, he gave individual gifts only to the apostles to heal people from evil spirits and various ailments that cannot heal themselves. Only by having enough of God's power and protection through prayer, the Holy Mysteries, God's blessing, can we be sure of the success of the fight against sin.

Pope Francis Prayer:

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick.

At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith.

You, Salvation of the ill People, know what we need.

We are certain that you will provide, so that,

as you did at Cana of Galilee,

joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love,

to conform ourselves to the Father's will

and to do what Jesus tells us:

He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us,

through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God.

Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test – and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.