Homily for the 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time(10/20/2019)

Rev. Francis Kim

Jesus says in the Gospel today, “Pray always without becoming weary.” The widow kept pestering the wicked judge until he gave her a just decision. Moses kept his arms raised in prayer until the Israelites won. Perseverance works.

Prayer is not something mysterious or secret; prayer is simply talking to God and listening to God. Prayer is a two-way conversation with God. We talk, and God listens. And, God talks, and we listen.

But, too often, we only talk too much, but don’t listen to God. We have to listen for God speak to us in every daily lives. God delights in the prayers of His children: prayers that express our love for Him, prayers that share our deepest burdens with Him.

How happy would parents be if their child constantly questioned them about whether his or her needs would be met? The parents would feel frustrated and sad, perhaps even angry that the child did not trust them.

God always answers the prayers of His children, but His answer is not always “yes.” Sometimes, His answer is ‘no,’ or ‘wait.’ Think of wise parents. They know when they have to say “no” for their children’s sake. God always knows far better than we do what is best for us.

Thank God even when He says ‘no’ or ‘wait.’ His answer is always best for us. So, do not put your will above His. Do not insist on your way. And, don’t expect an immediate answer to come in exactly the way, the place, and the manner that you are seeking.

Rather, learn to pray as Jesus Himself prayed: “Not My will, but Yours, be done.”

But, when we pray, sometimes we become tired and weary to pray and become frustrated. We pray, but our life doesn’t seem to change, our world doesn’t seem to change, at least not as quickly as we would want.

Remember: when Moses became tired to keep his hands raised up to pray to God, others, Aaron and Hur, came to support him, one on one side and one on the other. So, Moses remained standing in prayer.

We are also supported spiritually by others and by community. Not only do we pray for others, but others are praying for us at this moment. We will never be alone. So, don’t give up on prayer.

And, surely, our prayer has power to change the world and to change our lives. Put whatever burden you are carrying into God’s hands because He loves you, and nothing is impossible to Him. God will take care of everything for you.

Jesus says to us today, “Pray without becoming weary.” It is the most important thing about prayer. He assures us, “Whatever you ask for in prayer with faith, you will receive.”