

Name _____ Date _____

Praying for a Miracle

Directions: Just about everyone has prayed at one time or another for God to perform a miracle in his or her life. Recall a time when you asked God for a miracle, and answer the following questions.

1. What did you pray for? Why did you pray? How did you pray?

2. On a scale of one to five, how closely did you receive exactly the miracle for which you prayed?

God did not give me at all what I prayed for.		God gave me a different version of what I prayed for.		God gave me exactly what I prayed for.	
1	2	3	4	5	

Explain:

3. On a scale of one to five, how did this experience affect your faith?

This experience challenged my faith in God and led me to doubt.			This experience strengthened my faith in God.		
1	2	3	4	5	

Explain:

4. How would you define "miracle?"

5. What do you believe about miracles that God works in our world today?

Name _____ Date _____

Word Associations



Jesus performed many signs during his time on earth, and even today, we see signs that God works in our world. Explain what is meant by the word “sign” in this instance. What other words do you associate with this one?



Jesus performed many wonders during his time on earth, and even today, we see wonders that God works in our world. Explain what is meant by the word “wonder” in this instance. What other words do you associate with this one?



Jesus performed many miracles during his time on earth, and even today, we see miracles that God works in our world. Explain what is meant by the word “miracle” in this instance. What other words do you associate with this one?

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Handout 8-C

Asking the Big Questions

Directions: The Paschal Mystery is central to our faith as Christians. Reflecting on the events of Jesus' Passion, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension calls to mind many questions in the minds of believers, and these questions evolve as we get older and continue to grow in our faith. Thinking about the events described in Section 2, write the questions that come to your mind. Write at least one question that begins with each of the words below:

Who _____?

What _____?

When _____?

Where _____?

Why _____?

How _____?

Could _____?

Would _____?

Should _____?

Have _____?

Do/Does _____?

If _____?

Praying the Eucharistic Prayer

Below is one possible version of the Eucharistic Prayer, along with the words that precede and follow it. We hear these (or similar) words every time we attend Mass, but it can be easy to let our minds wander and lose focus on what these words mean in each of our daily lives. As you read the words of the prayer, take some time to write your responses to the questions presented.

The Lord be with you. (And with your spirit.)

Lift up your hearts. (We lift them up to the Lord.)

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. (It is right and just.)

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Father most holy, through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, your Word through whom you made all things, whom you sent as our Savior and Redeemer, incarnate by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin.

1. At the very beginning of this prayer, we recall that it is “right and just, our duty and our salvation” to offer our thanks to God. For what in your life are you most grateful? For what should you remember to thank God?

Fulfilling your will and gaining for you a holy people, he stretched out his hands as he endured his Passion, so as to break the bonds of death and manifest the resurrection. And so, with the Angels and all the Saints we declare your glory, as with one voice we acclaim: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

You are indeed Holy, O Lord, the fount of all holiness. Make holy, therefore, these gifts, we pray, by sending down your Spirit upon them like the dewfall, so that they may become for us the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2. “These gifts” of bread and wine come from the congregation, from our daily lives. In addition to the primary gifts of bread and wine, what other God-given gifts do you bring to this Eucharist to “be made holy”?

At the time he was betrayed and entered willingly into his Passion, he took bread and, giving thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take this, all of you, and eat of it, for this is my body, which will be given up for you.” In a similar way, when supper was ended, he took the chalice and, once more giving thanks, he gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take this, all of you, and drink from it, for this is the chalice of my blood, the blood of the new and eternal covenant, which will be poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in memory of me.”

3. We hear in these words that Jesus directed us to celebrate the Eucharist to remember his Death and Resurrection. What challenges in life sometimes make it difficult to remember the loving sacrifice that Jesus made for us?

The mystery of faith: We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

Therefore, as we celebrate the memorial of his Death and Resurrection, we offer you, Lord, the Bread of life and the Chalice of salvation, giving thanks that you have held us worthy to be in your presence and minister to you.

Praying the Eucharistic Prayer

4. Here, we thank God for the call to serve him. What are the ways God has called you to serve God and others in your daily life?

Humbly we pray that, partaking of the Body and Blood of Christ, we may be gathered into one by the Holy Spirit.

5. Jesus gave us the Eucharist in order to unite us all as one body. These words are a prayer for such Christian unity. In what ways is our Church, and our world, in need of deeper unity? Who in your life especially needs to be brought into closer unity with God and the community? How are you in need of this closer unity?

Remember, Lord, your Church, spread throughout the world, and bring her to the fullness of charity, together with Francis our Pope and Kevin our Bishop and all the clergy.

6. This is a prayer for blessings on all who serve us in the Church, bringing us the Good News. Who are the priests and religious who have nurtured your faith by their lives? Who else in your life has helped you grow in love?

Remember also our brothers and sisters who have fallen asleep in the hope of the resurrection, and all who have died in your mercy: welcome them into the light of your face.

7. Here we remember the deceased, who have “fallen asleep in the hope of the resurrection,” and thus who have experienced a deep personal connection with the Paschal Mystery of Jesus. Whom do you want to especially remember at this time?

Have mercy on us all, we pray, that with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, with the blessed Apostles, and all the Saints who have pleased you throughout the ages, we may merit to be coheirs to eternal life, and may praise and glorify you through your Son, Jesus Christ.

8. Jesus instituted the Eucharist so that his followers could receive the graces of the sacrament and apply them to the forgiveness of daily sins. These words are a prayer for such forgiveness (mercy) and an expression of desire for the fullness of life forever with God. What parts of your life can be obstacles to your journey toward our call to imitate the saints, that we might inherit eternal life alongside them?

Through him, and with him, and in him, O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, for ever and ever. Amen.

9. In singing the Great Amen at the conclusion of this prayer, we proclaim, “Yes, I believe.” When have you experienced challenges in your faith that make such affirmation of belief difficult? How can you ask God to strengthen your faith?

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Handout 8-E

Saved from Sin?

Emily, a sophomore in high school, wrote the following email to her parish priest, asking for help.

Dear Fr. Tim,

I'm really struggling with my faith right now. I go to church and hear that Jesus saved us from sin, and I don't see how it's possible to believe that. If Jesus saved us from sin, then why are my parents constantly angry at each other? Why is my uncle across an ocean fighting in a war? Why is my brother getting into so much trouble in school? Why am I fighting with my best friend? Where is Jesus when all of this is going on?

I feel guilty writing all of this down, but I'm hoping you can help me.

Emily

A handwritten signature of the name "Emily" in a cursive script.