

so you will be able to perceive the smallest motions, to recognise GOD's voice behind the events better and better. This way of praying should really not be difficult for you. And if you think: „Oh, I have forgotten it again for so long a time!“, this already is a sign that you are not insensible, that you are longing for a deeper union with GOD.

The art of prayer is nothing else but the art of loving! That means: whoever loves GOD, cannot but pray, always pray. If you do so, the heart, the soul is speaking rather than the lips. You begin to see the world with GOD's eyes. You will fall in love with GOD wholeheartedly. Is this bad? Love among human beings is magnificent, for it is given by GOD. But the love that GOD gives you, is definitely divine and infinitely deeper. He is Love. To die of an excess of this love as well as of yearning for my GOD, who is everything for me, this is my fondest wish. Amen!

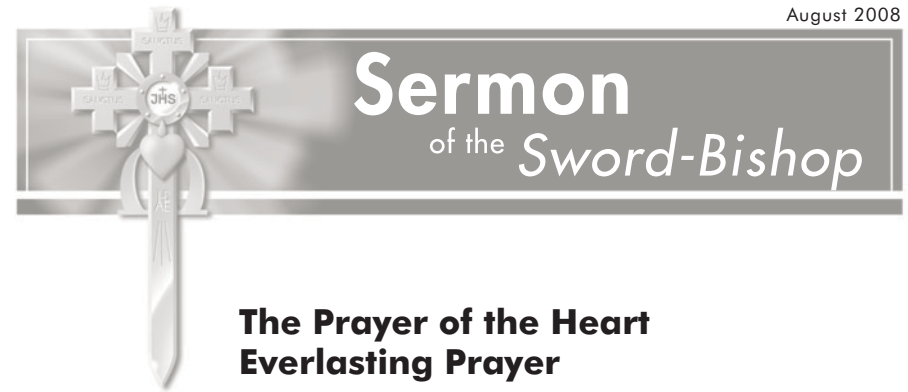
Excerpt from the sermon of 13 January 2008



Schwert-Bischof  
JESU CHRISTI

**Be blessed by GOD TRINITY,  
the + FATHER and the + SON  
and the + HOLY GHOST. Amen!**

Schwert-Bischof  
JESU CHRISTI  
sb.



# Sermon

of the *Sword-Bishop*

## The Prayer of the Heart Everlasting Prayer

My beloved, many people think that they live up to the life as a Christian by fulfilling their so-called Christian duties, by saying their morning, midday and evening prayers. But is this love? Is this in accordance with the Main Commandment? Would you not have to thank GOD for every batting of your eyelids that GOD gives you to clean your eyes from dust?

It is not merely said: „You shall love the LORD, your GOD!“ but: „You shall love the LORD, your GOD, with your whole heart, with your whole soul, with your whole mind and with your whole strength!“ But how can you live up to this commandment of love, the Main Commandment? Through the so much recommended prayers of the heart and ejaculations, GOD gives you grace and strength in order to grow in love.

### „Pray without ceasing!“ (1 Thess 5,17)

Prayer is such a natural thing. It belongs to man like eating, drinking and breathing. Believe me: those who do not pray, lose touch with GOD, lose GOD as a result, are no more Christians. For prayer is, to explain it in a simple way: speaking with GOD. And this is possible at any time. Do not be afraid: everlasting prayer must be the aim of your praying! You may think: „How shall I do this? I cannot sit in church and pray all day long. I am already glad when I can manage to say the morning, midday and evening prayers.“ Thinking this way, you show that you have not yet understood what true prayer is. Its

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consequence is that you have to confess continually: „I omitted my daily prayer because I lacked time for it.“

If you understand prayer the way St. Francis of Sales explained it, time is of no importance for prayer. Because then everything in your life becomes a prayer. Does the HOLY SPIRIT not dwell in you? If you unite yourself with Him, everything you do will become a prayer. Your getting up in the morning, your washing and putting on clothes, your breakfast, your job, your driving a car, your conversations with people. Everything you think, you talk about or you do can be an expression of your praying. „Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatsoever else you do, do all to the glory of God!“ (1 Cor. 10,31) Francis of Sales says: „All acts of those who live devoutly are permanent prayers and are called prayers of life. In the same way one can say that those who do good are praying because by doing so they are very close to GOD.“

### **Prayer – Expression of Love**

It is important to be aware that your prayer is an expression of your love of GOD. Do not pray in order to be able to say: „Now I have accomplished my duty.“ If you want to acquire love of GOD, it will happen if you let everything in your life become a prayer; however, not as a duty, because it must be done, but solely to please GOD. One short „Hail Mary“ prayed with the heart, is of more value than if you prayed the whole rosary up to the end just in order to fulfil your duty. Everything you do, be it a prayer spoken with the mouth, be it a prayer while absorbed in contemplation, be it the work for your neighbour, everything you must perform to please GOD. That is prayer!

### **GOD’s Presence**

You must be aware, and it must always be present in your mind, that nothing happens in your life without GOD’s presence. GOD is always with you, not to supervise you, but to show you that He loves you, that He does not avoid your existence but longs for it. Therefore it goes without saying that one does not only say one’s prayers during the daytime.

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What would your husband / wife say if you said to him / her only a quick “good morning” in the morning and a brief “good night” in the evening and nothing else?

Therefore GOD wants you to become aware of His presence. He is waiting for it. Let us say it very naively: GOD would be very sad if you should rather not want Him close to you during your day’s work. Believe me: life and prayer are one.

So if you begin your work, think consciously of GOD, put yourself in His presence. Think „that GOD is standing next to you as a friend“, as says St Francis of Sales. Let your Guardian Angel remind you of the presence of GOD during your work. But in order that you may hear your Guardian Angel, you must adjust yourself to him. It is just as if you would search a short-wave radio station. A lot of patience and sensitivity is required until you receive the station clearly and sharply.

### **Your Personal Prayer of the Heart**

„Not he learns to pray who acquires prayer methods and pious books, but he who orientates his whole life to GOD. Therefore say to GOD: ‚Yes, I want You to remain always near me whatever I think, say and do, because I love You too and do not want to do anything that saddens You.‘ Raise your heart to GOD again and again, take care of the ejaculation prayers in your heart and be happy to belong to Him!“ writes Francis of Sales. My personal prayer of the heart is at the moment: „LORD, I want to be a pleasure for You! LORD, let me be a pleasure for You!“

### **The Prayer of the Heart Opens You to GOD**

These two concrete steps: to put oneself in GOD’s presence and the ejaculation prayers, do not hinder you in your work. They bring you in mind that GOD is near you, loves you, they arouse in you the desire to return this love. If you begin to pray in this way, you will become aware how superficially you have lived your everyday life, how many signs and suggestions from GOD as well as from your Guardian Angel you ignored. Only through the union with GOD something will open up in you, and

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