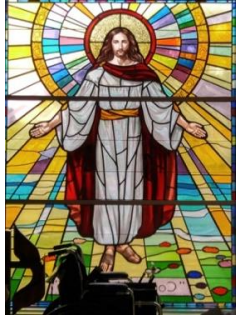


The Lord is Near to All...



Dearest sisters and brothers in Christ,

“The Lord is near to all who call upon Him.” (Psalm 145). What a comforting feeling to know that the Lord is near, always and eternally. We need only to cultivate and nurture our faith to feel ever closer to God. Let us pray for each other. May we remember in our prayers those who suffer, grieve, hunger and struggle. This is the delicate human condition that connects us. We all experience pain, challenges, fear and that ubiquitous sense of not knowing what will come next. This too is our shared human condition. Let us pray often and much for those who feel overwhelmed by not being able to feed their children, those who look for work without success, those who find that war resides at whatever may be left of their front door. Let us pray with humility, for it not for the grace of God, there would we go. Let us always keep in our minds and hearts that God is always near.

Let us call upon our Lord in all that we think, do and say. May we get out of our own way so that God’s light may shine brightly through us. **What have we to fear when God is near?** Our lives are made of a tapestry of our actions and inactions. May we use our lives to weave threads of love, kindness, compassion, patience, joy and generosity into the fabric of our lives. May we treat each other “as if” Jesus Himself were to ask for our help. Let us pray and listen intently for God’s voice that we may know what His plan is for us. May we be spared the turmoil that comes from thinking we are alone and without support or understanding. God is always with us!

May we pray for each other. May we help each other actively; share a meal, invite a neighbor over for tea, write a letter to someone far away that you miss, call your Mom, kiss your Papa, hug your children and do it often. The gift of community is not to be taken lightly. The gift of God’s eternal love is to be taken to heart and soul. Share your abundant blessings with others, in God’s holy name, *Amen*.

Fr. Vincent Phung
September 24, 2023