

PASTORAL PRAYER: November 9, 1997

O THOU who art with us in our restlessness as well as in our rest, help us
in this call to prayer to find a gracious invitation to renewal.

WE FIND it in our hearts this day to thank Thee for mercies
that have followed, yea preceded us, all our earthly
days:

For seedtime and harvest and food enough;
For energies of mind and hand, and work to do;
For dead-end streets and U Turns made, and open
roads that followed;
For critical interventions of the right friend, the
right book, the right thought - at precisely
the right time;
For the sheer wonder of our creation, preservation and
redemption.
For stout promises and bright hopes that keep us
thinking kindly of the future.

WITH mind and heart and strength - Yes, with all that is
within us - we would praise Your holy name.

WE PRAY TODAY in support of the quiet people of our time who go on day by day
rendering a needed service in a world that is loud and often
unappreciative:

Visiting nurses, hospital orderlies, change-booth clerks.
Those who bus our dishes and clean our offices;
Those who care for the mentally disturbed,
Those who counsel the unemployed and the distressed.
Those who show up faithfully in our schools to teach
and to show what love and concern can do - and take.

GRANT that a nation that lavishes its adulation on athletes and movie stars may
yet recover sufficient sanity to know who its real heroes and heroines
are.

HERE we sit, O God, hardly knowing who we are - yet sensing that we live in
relation to a power higher and greater than ourselves.

Help us to love Thee - without loving ourselves the less.
Help us to serve Thee - without serving our world the less.

Console the frayed affections of all who cannot cope with change.
Steady the resolve of those who would lead us into new and untried ways.
Amplify the voices of those who speak the cause of peace, the cause of the poor
and disadvantaged of our society.
And keep us all close to the side of Christ - mindful of His values and always
dependent on His Spirit.

For we would live, even as we pray - through Jesus Christ
our Lord.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Sunday, November 9, 1997

GREETING / VISITORS

- A. A word of greeting to the visitors....DELIGHTED to have you here with us....and hope we shall have the OPPORTUNITY....be free in the sharing of your name....FILL out. SIGN one...COME, worship with us....COME, work with us....
- B. Doing the "LORD'S WORK" here at this busy corner....since 1837. Fourth building...roots are deep....minister in the name of Christ, and it is in.....LOVING SPIRIT.
- C. MEMBERS: wear your name tags. REMEMBER: no church business during coffee hour.....time to make some new friends. (Paul Russell...for whom the RR is named liked to remind us of that....)

PARISH CONCERNS

- A. Parish concerns are listed in the bulletin...also in the monthly.... Review them on your own noting the meetings and events and special gatherings.....
- B. Of special interest is the "CONVERSATIONS IN MEMBERSHIP"...a week from tonight....at 5:30 in the RR. For new friends. An opportunity to learn more about the church. Some are tempted to think of making a closer connection....stronger tie....December 7th.....

"If your heart is as my heart is, then come....
give me your hand...." Yes - hands and hearts
are needed....to keep these NYC churches going.

NOVEMBER: ALWAYS A BUSY MONTH

- A. We're now NINE days into the busiest and most demanding month of the church year. Extra energy...enthusiasm...patience is always called for. November 22nd: church Fair. Note the announcements.
- B. Next Sunday is DEDICATION SUNDAY....present to lift up this concern for you is last year's chairperson, Sarah Gill. Did such a great job in taking us over the top.....let me present her to you. Sarah is handling our Business Manager's job...works on her MBA. Parents were active here....back in the late sixties....

JESUS SAID:

"It is more blessed to give than it is..."