

For your reflection

From Fr. Arnold's "Little Manual of Common Prayer"

Reasons why the Morning and Evening Prayer are particularly necessary.

Because it is necessary to sanctify our life before God. Therefore, if we do not pray in the morning or in the evening, we cannot say that we sanctify our life before God since we neither begin nor end the day with Him...

In the sacrament of confirmation we have become soldiers of Jesus Christ; prayer is now the best weapon which we should use in the battle for Jesus Christ.

In holy communion you already united yourself so often with the divine Savior; so through prayer keep your heart united with your supreme and kindest Lord as well.

AT THE SERVICE OF PROPHETIC DIALOGUE

INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE

SIXTH COLLOQUIUM

Joint Declaration of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue (Vatican) and the Centre for Inter-Religious Dialogue of the Islamic Culture and Relations Organization (Tehran, Iran), Rome, 28-30 April 2008

(Excerpt)

The participants of the colloquium studied the theme "Faith and Reason in Christianity and Islam".

"At the end of the meeting the participants agreed on the following:

1. Faith and reason are both gifts of God to humankind.
2. Faith and reason do not contradict each other, but faith might in some cases be above reason, but never against it.
3. Faith and reason are intrinsically non-violent. Neither reason nor faith should be used for violence; unfortunately, both of them have sometimes been misused to perpetrate violence. In any case, these events cannot question either reason or faith.
4. Both sides agreed to co-operate further in order to promote genuine religiosity, in particular spirituality, to encourage respect for symbols considered to be sacred and to promote moral values.
5. Christians and Muslims should go beyond

tolerance, accepting differences, while remaining aware of commonalities and thanking God for them. They are called to mutual respect, thereby condemning derision of religious beliefs.

6. Generalization should be avoided when speaking of religions. Differences of confessions within Christianity and Islam, diversity of historical contexts are important factors to be considered.

7. Religious traditions cannot be judged on the basis of a single verse or a passage present in their respective holy Books. A holistic vision as well as an adequate hermeneutical method is necessary for a fair understanding of them. ...

The participants were honored and pleased to be received at the end of the colloquium by His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI, who was particularly satisfied with the choice of the theme and the venue of the meeting.

The next colloquium will be held in Tehran within two years, preceded by a preparatory meeting."

(www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_councils/interelg/documents/rc_pc_inte... 28.05. 2008)

Mother Josepha

WHERE THERE IS LOVE
THERE IS PEACE

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The Arnoldus Family Story

Arnold Janssen - Missionary through the Printed Word

As we saw already in the March issue of this newsletter, Arnold Janssen expanded his activities in the service of the Apostleship of Prayer beyond the boundaries of his home diocese of Muenster. For instance, during the General Assembly of the Catholic Associations of Germany in Duesseldorf (September 6-9, 1869) he submitted the proposal that the Assembly should recommend the Apostleship of Prayer to all German Catholics.

He sought to reach not only Germany but all German speaking countries in Europe through the printed word, and that meant through small religious booklets and prayer leaflets.

Booklet for the Reception into the Apostleship of Prayer

In 1866 Fr. Arnold published a booklet with the title: *Association of the Apostleship of Prayer to Encourage Prayer of Petition to the Adorable Heart of our Savior Jesus Christ*:

After an historical introduction, ... there follows a section on intercessory prayer in union with Christ, to promote the honor of God and the salvation and sanctification of humankind. He then goes on to explain what the Apostleship of Prayer is, lists the indulgences members may gain, and concludes with a selection of prayers (Bornemann, Arnold Janssen p. 20).

By the end of 1866 the first edition of this booklet, at least 5 000 copies, was sold out. In the second edition (about 15 000 copies) he changed the title into: "Reception Booklet of the Apostleship of Prayer as well as of the Fraternity of the Adorable Heart of our Savior Jesus Christ" (cf. *ibid.*, p. 21). The third edition of 1869 (20 000 copies) Fr. Arnold had changed quite a bit: "... The booklet began with a more concise explanation of what the Apostleship of Prayer is. This was followed by five suggested intentions for the recitation of the rosary and a prayer for Christian unity. ..." (*ibid.*, p. 23). This latter prayer Fr. Arnold had borrowed from the Petrine Union. The five intentions for praying the rosary were new in this edition. The booklet saw several more editions; altogether about 90,000 copies were printed (*ibid.*, p. 24).

Little Manual of Common Prayer and First Friday Manual

In 1870 the Franco-German war made it impossible for Fr. Arnold to do any traveling in the service of the Apostleship of Prayer. However, his missionary zeal and his love

for this Apostleship made him use his free time creatively and write a “*Little Manual of Common Prayer*”. There were two editions of it, with altogether about 6 000 copies being printed.

The next booklet was published in 1871; it was the “*First Friday Manual*” or “*Short Devotion to the Sacred Heart of our Savior for use on First Fridays*” which he had written in collaboration with a “practical religious”. It was meant for devotions in religious communities and parishes.

...*The center portion of the booklet is a prayer in which a leader and the people alternate. The leader prays “for all sinners” and the congregation answers: “Have mercy on us, o Lord, have mercy on us. Amen.” “For those who have fallen into the clutches of the evil one.... Save them, Lord, save them, in your great and endless mercy. Amen.” There are nine such intentions and congregational responses. The responses are rather impressive and have a marked natural rhythm. In a promotional circular, Father Janssen speaks of the congregational responses as something relatively new. At the end the leader summarizes the petitions and prays for the various states in the Church. A litany follows, ... The booklet also contains the texts of hymns which may be sung between the prayers* (Bornemann, Arnold Janssen, p. 25).

This booklet saw a number of editions with altogether about 60 000 copies printed.

Who was the “practical religious” who had collaborated with Fr. Arnold in writing the booklet? According to Fr. Arnold’s biographer F. Bornemann SVD that is difficult to say, but it was definitely not Fr. Arnold himself, for he still was a priest of the Diocese of Muenster and not a religious.

“Whoever it was”, Bornemann writes, “he was so modest as to allow Fr. Janssen to sign alone as author, whilst Fr. Janssen in a promotional leaflet quite correctly, and perhaps also for the sake of advertising wrote that a “practical religious” had collaborated in writing it; so the author was not just the teacher of mathematics at a junior secondary school, who was the Diocesan Director for the Apostleship of Prayer (Bornemann, Zwölf Aufsätze, Analecta SVD – 53, pp.14.15)

The St. Joseph Booklet

In 1884, that is 9 years after having founded the mission house in Steyl, Fr. Arnold published the “St. Joseph Booklet” with prayers to St. Joseph. Up until 1908 there were 12 editions with about 140 000 copies (Bornemann, Arnold Janssen / 3rd German edition of 1992, p. 28; the 1975 English edition of this book, on p. 25 gives the number 14,000 which for 12 editions seems to be wrong).

Prayer Leaflets for the Apostleship of Prayer and Morning- and Evening Prayer

Besides these small religious booklets, Fr. Arnold published prayer leaflets, mostly with texts from those small booklets: a four-page prayer leaflet of the Apostleship of Prayer, a four-page morning prayer and an evening prayer leaflet in a larger format. All these prayer leaflets reached a total of about 97 000 (cf. *ibid.*, p. 26).

Rosary Prayer leaflets and Fr. Arnold’s promotional Rosary Tour

Among those prayers “which, by their nature appear to be more closely allied than others to” the spirit of the Apostleship of Prayer, “and which consequently must be particularly dear to the associates of the Apostleship” is the rosary (Ramière, *The Apostleship of Prayer; A holy League of Christian Hearts united with the Heart of Jesus, to obtain the triumph of the Church and the Salvation of Souls*, Richardson & Son, London 1866, p. 274). No wonder, therefore, that Fr. Arnold creatively worked for the spread of this prayer, at first through a prayer leaflet with an instruction for praying the rosary and five special intentions for the five decades of the rosary (see Arnold Janssen Secretariat Steyl, newsletter no. 12, January 2008). Fr. Arnold was convinced that those intentions answered ‘a pastoral need of the faithful’. Fr. Malfatti SJ, the director General of the Apostleship of Prayer for the German speaking countries in Europe, was of the same opinion and he printed those intentions in the Apostleship’s magazine.

Fr. Arnold had a very special idea in mind when promoting the prayer of the rosary with those intentions:

The rosary is one of the most familiar of all Catholic prayers both in the parish community and at home. If the faithful are taught to be aware of the needs of others in their prayers, they will be less preoccupied with their own selfish interests, and by degrees will acquire a selfless concern for others, a sincere love of neighbor (Bornemann, Arnold Janssen (English edition), p. 26).

A very special form of the rosary and recommended by the Apostleship of Prayer is the *Living Rosary*: “Fifteen persons join together and divide the fifteen mysteries of the Rosary between them. Each one then pledges to recite one decade every day, meditating on the mystery” he or she has to pray (Ramière, *The Apostleship of Prayer...*, p. 356). Fr. Arnold sought to spread the prayer of the Living Rosary as well, and he did so again with the help of prayer leaflets: in June 1873 he had 25 000 leaflets for the prayer of the “Living Rosary” printed, but also 25 000 for the ordinary prayer of the rosary (Alt, *Journey in Faith*, p.36).

The rosary as an intercessory prayer was so important to Fr. Arnold that from September 4 until October 10, 1872 he traveled through the Rhineland, Southern Germany, Switzerland and Austria for the sake of promoting the rosary as intercessory prayer. He seemed to have been successful in his efforts, for already rather soon he wrote to Archbishop Melchers of Cologne: “*My efforts to promote intercessory prayer by offering up the rosary have been very blessed by God*” (*ibid.*, p. 35).

Fr. Arnold’s principal at the junior secondary school in Bochohl, Fr. Waldau, tells us the following about the missionary journeys of his deputy: “*In Bohemia he was imprisoned for a short time because he lacked the necessary identification papers and in Switzerland he was confined to his hotel*” (Bornemann, *Remembering Arnold Janssen*, Analecta SVD – 42, p.40).

When in 1873 Fr. Arnold was to undertake another journey, he first got a passport, issued on August 23, 1873 by the municipal council at Borken. “It included the details: age 36; build: slim; hair: blond, special characteristics: none” (Alt, *Journey in Faith*, p. 40).