

DEMONTREVILLE RETREAT WEEKEND



SATURDAY AFTERNOON

Prayer: (Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, S.J.)

**Above all, trust in the slow work of God.
We are quite naturally impatient in everything
to reach the end without delay.
We should like to skip the intermediate stages.
We are impatient of being on the way to something
Unknown, something new.
And yet it is the law of all progress
That it is made by passing through
Some stages of instability –
And that it may take a very long time.**

**And so I think it is with you.
Your ideas mature gradually – let them grow,
Let them shape themselves, without undue haste.
Don't try to force them on,
As though you could be today what time
(that is to say, grace and circumstances
acting on your own good will)
will make of you tomorrow.**

**Only God could say what this new spirit
Gradually forming within you will be.**

**Give our Lord the benefit of believing
That his hand is leading you,
And accept the anxiety of feeling yourself
In suspense and incomplete.**

Some Scripture readings (remember our focus on Christ)

1. Matthew 8:23-27. Jesus sleeps during a storm on the lake. The disciples “of little faith”, are terrified and shake Jesus awake. He calms the wind and water; they wonder, “who is He?”
2. Luke 5:17-26. Jesus talks in a crowded house to local leaders. Some friends lower a paraplegic through the roof and Jesus cures him “because of their faith.”
3. Matthew 14:22-33. Jesus sends the crowds away to pray and to be with his disciples. He frightens them as He walks on the water to them. Peter sinks trying to run to Jesus who saves him.
4. Luke 7:1-10. A servant of a centurion is ill and Jesus is asked to come to his aid. The centurion sends a message of his belief and Jesus is amazed at the faith of those outside of the People of God.
5. Matthew 17:1-9. On a mountain top, Jesus is transfigured with Glory. The Father’s voice, “My Beloved Son.”

Some other ways to pray:

1. One way of praying is to take what is very well known to us, for example the commandments, the cardinal virtues or the cardinal vices. Take each commandment (for example) and consider the divine invitation that it expresses. Thank God for all the good that comes your way through God’s hands.
2. Another way is to take a very familiar prayer (such as the Our Father, the Hail Mary, the Apostles’ Creed) and consider it **one word at a time** savoring each word and then moving on to the next word.
3. Still another way to pray is to use a familiar form such as “Jesus, have mercy on me,” and to match the saying of the phrase with your breathing. For example, as I breathe in I say “Jesus” and as I breathe out I say “mercy” or “have mercy on me.”

