

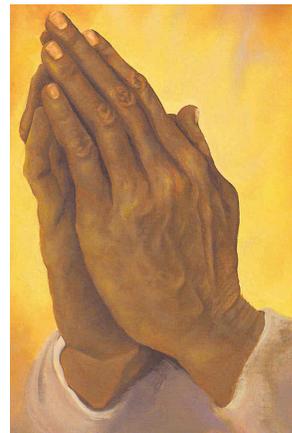
Relationship and Prayer

What does relationship have to do with prayer?

First, we need to know who we are:

- * Husband, wife, child, mother, father, Godparent, grandmother, grandfather, uncle, aunt, Secular Franciscan, clergy, farmer, carpenter, salesperson, physician, educator, homemaker, retired, etc.
- * Introvert or extrovert

[Francis was a friar, deacon, friend, confidant, son, introvert etc.]



Where do we like to pray?

- * Church, home, in the backyard, in the woods, in the fields, sitting in the car, washing dishes, feeding the animals, etc.

[Francis liked to pray in Churches, out in the fields, in caves, in people's homes, with his brothers, etc.]

When do we pray?

- * On Sundays and Holy Days at Mass
- * When happy
- * When needing a favor
- * When someone is ill
- * When there is a crisis
- * When mad

[Francis prayed most of the time. He saw that everything in his life was connected to his loving Father and he gave praise and honor to that fact.]

For whom do we pray?

- * Parents
- * Children
- * Neighbors
- * Relatives
- * Strangers
- * Enemies
- * Secular Franciscans
- * Franciscan family
- * Clergy
- * People involved in an accident

[Francis prayed for everyone and everything. If you look at the *Canticle of the Sun*, you'll see that Francis prayed in gratitude for: brother sun, sister moon, brother wind, sister water, brother fire, sister mother earth, and even for sister bodily death.]

To whom do we pray?

- * God the Father
- * Jesus the Son
- * Holy Spirit
- * Saints
- * Relatives
- * Friends

[Francis prayed to: most high glorious God; Lord Jesus Christ, Creator & Redeemer; the Almighty King; the Lamb; Great and wonderful Lord; God almighty; Merciful Savior.]

So, we know **who we are**, **where** we like to pray, **when** we pray, **for whom** we pray, and **to whom** we pray. Putting all of this together, we draw the conclusion that we must **be in relationship** with all of these so that we are **praying with our whole selves**. It is **not outside of ourselves**; it is **part of our very being**. We **enter into the sacred** so that our **lives can be touched by God** and we can be **transformed** into people who are trying our best **to be more and more Christ-like**. That is why we **encounter the Sacrament of Reconciliation** so that we are gifted with the graces we need to turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel. We are all **called to be holy** and to **mirror the love of God to others**.

Why was prayer important to St. Francis?
What can we learn from how and where St. Francis prayed?