

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

Gospel text (Mk 1:29-39): ... Rising very early before dawn, he left and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed. Simon and those who were with him pursued him and on finding him said, “Everyone is looking for you.” ...

Prayer: a relationship with Jesus which is “personal” and at the same time “communitarian”

EDITORIAL TEAM evangeli.net (based on texts by Benedict XVI)

(Città del Vaticano, Vatican)

Today, we contemplate Jesus praying. His example is eloquent. In His teachings He drew a complete picture of the authentic mankind. He shows us how to be a man: fundamentally, starting from God, and only living in relation to God.

God is not someone unknown or distant: in Jesus He shows us His face. To live in relation to God includes talking and listening to Him, which requires discretion, essential in a love relation. The Holy Scriptures tell us that God addresses each one by calling him by his name: God’s love for each one of us is totally personal and brings in itself that mystery of what is unique and cannot be disclosed before men.

—This discretion, essential in my prayer, does not exclude the “communitarian dimension”: The “Our Father” itself is a prayer said in the first person plural and only by becoming part of “us” as God Sons will I be able to go beyond the limits of this world and raise myself up to God.