

## What is Asked in Prayer will be given

(Anthony is a good carpenter)

**Anthony :** Father, I did not get any job for three months. I do not know how to meet the day-to-day expenses of the family.

**Parish Priest :** You are a devout Catholic. You pray to God daily. You have a deep faith in God. Don't lose heart. Pray to God fervently. He will answer your prayer. I also will help you.

(He went home)

**Ana Maria :** What did Father say?

**Anthony :** He asked to pray continuously without losing faith.

**Ana Maria :** Look, one of the pastors of a fundamentalist sect told me that he would give me one hundred thousand rupees, if we come to their sect abandoning Catholic faith. But I said to him that we serve one only one God and therefore we will not be apostates even if we have to die of hunger.

**Anthony :** Having gone with those who feed themselves by selling their religion, we cannot go to hell. We have to trust in God. Let us pray continuously. We will not miss the bus.

(One Day one of the Tuition Teachers came to meet Anthony, the carpenter)

**Sumanasiri :** I want to make 500 desks and 500 chairs. I know that you are the best carpenter in Moratuwa. Can you do the work for me?

**Anthony :** Why not? I'll definitely do it for you as soon as possible.

**Sumanasiri :** Very good, I will give you five hundred thousand rupees for the job. Here, take this two hundred thousand rupees as an advance. I will give the rest as the work progresses. What do you say?

**Anthony :** Sir, I'll do it for you.

(Sumanasiri gave the two hundred thousand rupees to Anthony then and there. That afternoon, he went to meet the Parish Priest and gave him some money)

**Anthony :** Take this money for the Church. Today I got a work of five hundred thousand rupees. Since I prayed to God fervently and continuously, I got a job to fulfil the needs of my children. Thanks be to God.

## Prayer of Prophet Elijah

Prophet Elijah made an altar on the Mount Carmel. Prophet Elijah and the prophets of Baal arrange two burnt offerings separately. It was decided that the true God will send a fire and burn the offering. Although the prophets of Baal prayed, their offering was not burnt by a fire. Having poured water on the offering, Prophet Elijah prayed in this manner:

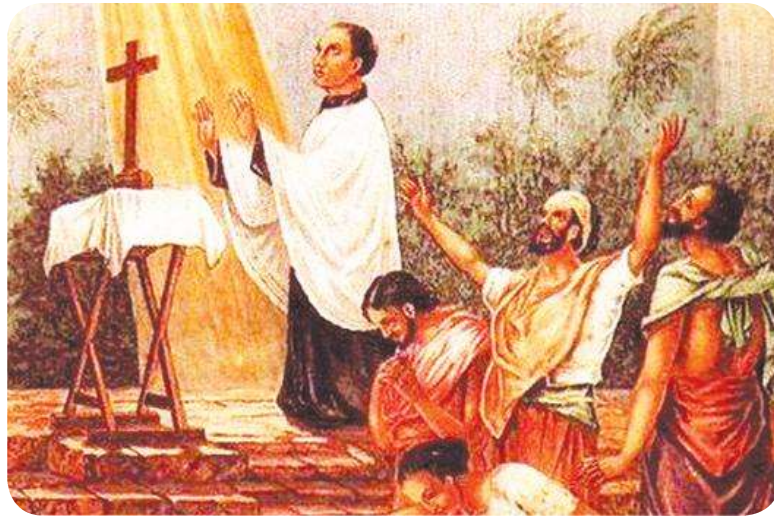
“O LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that you are God in Israel, that I am your servant, and that I have done all these things at your bidding. Answer me, O LORD, answer me, so that this people may know that you, O LORD, are God, and that you have turned their hearts back.” Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt offering, the wood, the stones, and the dust, and even licked up the water that was in the trench.

(1 Kings 18:36-38)

(By this act, it was proved who the true God was)

At the end of the offering on the Mount Carmel, the drought was over and it started to rain. God protects those who believe in Him. In addition to that, He helps them in their needs. Therefore, we also should pray with faith in times of difficulties.

## Rain as a Result of Prayers of St. Joseph Vaz



Picture 21.1 - St. Joseph Vaz prayed in Kandy

St. Joseph was a prisoner during the reign of King, Vimaladharmasooriya II. At that time, the people were suffering due to a long period of drought. Not only their cultivations were destroyed, but also they did not have water even to drink. Buddhist and other religious rituals were done praying for rain. They were in vain. Finally, the king asked St. Joseph Vaz's assistance. Having built an altar in front of the king's palace and kept a cross on it, St. Joseph Vaz prayed in deep faith. Soon the sky got dark and it began to rain, but not a single drop of water fell on St. Joseph Vaz and the altar.

If we pray fervently, miracles do happen. Therefore, we should pray daily in deep faith. By the experience we get through prayer, we can lead others also to pray in the same manner.

### Activity



1. Write two guidelines that you get through the prayer of Prophet Elijah on the Mount Carmel.
2. Describe in short how you realized one of your needs through prayer.
3. Write an advice that you give to your friend who is weak in faith.



**For Life**

Ask your needs in faith.