

**Faith Committee
Character Council of Hamburg**

Spiritual Reflection on the September 2006 Virtue of

Diligence

Diligence is persistent application to one's work while giving great value to the task at hand

We often think of working with diligence at something of significance for which we want the outcome to be successful. That could be an academic degree, an important project at work, a hobby requiring skill, or even perhaps a relationship with another. But do we think of working with diligence at our faith? Just believing in God is not enough. One must pursue one's relationship with God with diligence in order for it to be successful. Hebrews 11:6 tells us: "But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him."

Sometimes we forget that God, Whom we seek, is standing at the door of our hearts waiting to be invited in. He wants a relationship with us; He longs for us. But He does not force Himself upon us. St. Therese of Lisieux described God as the "Divine Beggar of love." This Divine Beggar of love is waiting at the door of our hearts. It is only when we "diligently seek Him" through prayer that we allow Him to enter our hearts and every aspect of our lives. This is the start of our transformation into being a true lover of God. We must be persistent for, like any worthwhile relationship, we can never stop working at our relationship with Him. It is only if we seek God with diligence through prayer that we will come to know Him in an intimate way.

St. Anselm, Archbishop of Canterbury in the 11th century, prayed: "O Lord, our God, grant us grace to desire You with our whole heart, that so desiring You, we may seek and find You, and so finding You, we may love You." There is no doubt that we will be loved in return. For when we "diligently seek Him," realizing the fullness of God's love is the primary reward that we receive.

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