



The Longest Hour: The Story of My Son, A Soon-to-be Saint, and a Miracle, Part III

By Bonnie Engstrom

Morning Offering:

“O Jesus,
through the Immaculate Heart of Mary,
I offer You my prayers, works,
joys and sufferings
of this day for all the intentions
of Your Sacred Heart,
in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass
throughout the world,
in reparation for my sins,
for the intentions of all my relatives and friends,
and in particular
for the intentions of the Holy Father.
Amen.”

Reflective Questions

1. Bonnie says that she and her husband knew that God had answered their prayers by the time that their son was about nine months old. Sometimes it can take us a long time to see the fruit of our prayers and to see how God’s hand was with us throughout all of our trials and our praying. Are you able to look back and see His presence when you were most desperate?

2. Bonnie shares that even through loss, grief, and hard times, that the Lord has been faithful and generous to her family. How has this been true for you as well? Where has He been faithful, or generous, or kind?
3. Sometimes it's easier to say, "Yes" to God in the big things than it is in the little, day to day, moments. How can you say, "Yes" to God ("Fiat, let it be done to me") today and throughout the little moments that will come up?
4. Bonnie makes an important distinction about hope: that she has had to *choose* to have hope instead of allowing herself to despair during hard times. Hope is to rely on the strength of God and on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit. It's to not rely on your own strength. How can you have greater hope today in the next few weeks? How can you choose it, and remember to keep choosing it, each day?
5. Bonnie shares that the teaching of redemptive suffering is a gift for us. How is it a gift for you?
6. How can you offer up prayers for specific intentions while doing what you normally do throughout the day?