

PRAYER OF ST. HILARY
(FROM BOOK I OF DE TRINITATE)

O Almighty God the Father, I am fully conscious that I owe this to You as the special duty of my life that all my words and thoughts should speak of You. This readiness of speech which You have granted to me can obtain for me here no greater reward than to serve You by proclaiming You, and by revealing to the world that does not know You and to the heretic that denies You what You are, namely, the Father of the only-begotten God.

This is, to be sure, only the expression of my will. Besides this, I must pray for the gift of Your help and mercy that You may fill the sails of our faith and profession which have been extended to You with the breath of Your Spirit and direct us along the course of instruction that we have chartered. The Author of this promise is not unfaithful to us who says: Ask, and it shall be given to you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened to you.

We, of course, in our helplessness shall pray for those things that we need, and shall apply ourselves with tireless zeal to the study of all the words of Your Prophets and Apostles and shall knock at all the doors of wisdom that are closed to us, but it is for You to grant our prayer, to be present when we seek, to open when we knock. Because of the laziness and dullness of our nature, we are, as it were, in a trance, and in regard to the understanding of Your attributes we are restricted within the confines of ignorance by the weakness of our intellect. Zeal for Your doctrine leads us to grasp the knowledge of divine things and the obedience of faith carries us beyond the natural power of comprehension.

We hope, therefore, that You will set in motion the beginning of our timid venture and will encourage it by a steady progress and will summon us to share in the prophetic and apostolic spirit in order that we may explain the proper meaning of the words in accordance with the realities they signify.

