

**Prayer Of A Priest - Blessed Papa Dimitri Gagastathis  
(1902 - 1975)**

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O Jesus, the good Shepherd, I thank Thee, because  
Thou hast given even to me, the small and  
weak one, the same command that Thou didst  
give to Thy apostles, when Thou didst tell  
them "Feed my lambs, feed my sheep".

Never would I dare, O Lord, to accept such a heavy  
mission, if I did not believe that Thy grace  
remedies what is weak and makes up for what  
is wanting. Therefore, in this moment, in  
which I feel my shortcomings so intensely, I,  
Thy priest, Thy sacrificer, the small shepherd  
of Thy flock, implore Thee:

Uphold me, O Lord, keep my heart pure, whole, free  
from money and attached to Thy commandments.

Take away from Thy servant selfishness, ostentation  
and worldliness.

Keep him from anger, rancor, envy and jealousy  
*fear, procrastination, laziness, anxiety, fatigue,  
cynicism, isolationism, judging, negative thoughts,  
torpor, listlessness, undue regret, ignorance, stony  
insensibility*

Make me a man of prayer, so that not only with my  
lips, but also with my heart I may praise and  
glorify Thy Holy Name.

Help me not forget the holy feelings of my first Divine  
Liturgy, and by them to chase away the germ  
of habit, which every so often comes into me.

Help Thy priest, O Lord be always:  
an angel of comfort for the afflicted  
, a source of spiritual invigoration for the  
disheartened  
*, a means of healing for the afflicted  
, a source of strength for the addicted  
, a source of purpose for the confused  
, a guide towards Thy peace  
, and a source of joy for the wounded.*

Help me, my Savior combine in my life and work:  
tenderness with firmness  
, tact with strength  
, sensitivity with strictness.

Reduce my faults, so that no one may fall because of  
my weakness.

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Teach me, Lord:  
how to instruct the children  
, inspire the youth, advise the adults  
, turn back the sinners  
, encourage those who are about to die.

Teach me, O Lord who knowest the hearts of men,  
how to perform the Mysteries of Thy Church  
and especially the Mystery of Holy  
Confession. During that time, make me be a  
perfect physician and an affectionate father.

Help me in my parish an inspiration of good works and  
a leader in God pleasing endeavors, so that all  
may be won over for their own happiness and  
for the glory of Thy Name. Amen.

*Italics are additions to Papa Dimitri's prayer. Take  
them out if you want the original prayer.*

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