

When I was in high school, my prayer life took on a sort of limited scope. I would go to Mass on the weekend, pray a Rosary at night sometimes before I went to bed (or fell asleep while praying), and otherwise, I went about my regular life.

Every now and again I'd find myself in a "situation" ... in the front office at school ... or at a job interview ... some place 'important.' And in the midst of everything, once I realized that I'd exhausted my own resources ... I'd think – "Hey, I should probably pray."

It seemed that if I got myself in hot water, I'd pray; or if I wanted something, I'd pray. So apart from weekend liturgies, my prayers were something like: "Hey God, get me out of this." or "Hey God, give me what I want."

I allowed God to serve the role of the rescuer, but for the most part I would have already gotten myself into something, run out of options and THEN thought about praying.

That's not much of a relationship with the Almighty. God should never be limited to a role as our "divine" fix-it man.

Not because God doesn't want to help us or fix our "situations." But rather, because God is so much MORE than a divine handyman.

Only later, as I grew up, did I start to spend quiet time in prayer not only talking to God, but listening to what He had to say. And only then, did my relationship with God deepen.

It is important that we build and maintain a serious relationship with God in our daily lives. In the Gospel, Jesus calls God our "heavenly Father" who desires to "give good things to those who ask him."

But we shouldn't wait for a "situation" to arise before we turn to God. And if we're on the receiving end of all of these "good things," we should certainly express some form of gratitude.

A few years ago, I received a copy of an examination of conscience which I found very difficult to work with. That was because the first item asked, "Have I told God today that I love Him?" And the next item asked "Do I tell Jesus that I love Him with my whole heart?" And it went on to ask, "Do I take the occasion to tell God that I love Him whenever I experience something I naturally dislike?"

I wasn't comfortable at the time with entering into a "love" relationship with God. And I especially wasn't in the habit of telling God that I loved him when I was in a difficult situation.

Yet, that little examination of conscience, that little daily spiritual exercise transformed my relationship with God from one of God the "functionary," to one of being the Son of a loving Father.

And so, for our reflection today, let us tell God today that we love him. And in all of the events of this day, and the ensuing days, let us tell God how much we love him in the good and the bad situations.

Do it right now – close your eyes, and say those three little words to God. And listen for the answer.