

I'm certain that we've all had the experience of walking into a darkened room, reaching for the light switch, throwing the switch ... and ... nothing. It's still dark. We maybe throw the switch down and up a couple of times, and still ... nothing. And there we are still in the dark.

The technological "let down" we feel is the corollary to the confidence we have in such things as electricity. The expectation that in throwing the switch, there will be light - is so ingrained in our psyches that there's a feeling of disappointment that follows an unsuccessful attempt at something so simple.

The confidence ... the ardent expectation ... that we put into light switches ... and light bulbs is so deep ... so visceral ... that in that moment there is a certain helplessness that we may feel - based on our own knowledge of electricity, where the fuse box is, where is the flashlight, and even where the spare lightbulbs are kept.

In today's readings, we hear of the power of prayer. Yet I would hazard that we may have more faith in Consumer's Power than we may have in prayer.

*"Queen Esther, seized with mortal anguish, had recourse to the LORD."*

*"Lord, on the day I called for help, you answered me."*

*"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you."*

Do we have an ardent expectation of faith in prayer? Do we rather live according to "the LORD helps those who help themselves"?

Yet in fulfilling the three pillars of Lent - prayer, fasting, almsgiving - what are our expectations? Where is our confidence?

As we approach this altar to receive the Sacred Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ -

let us pray for a deeper faith ...

let us pray to put our trust even more in God ...

let us learn to expect the miracle.