



Praying for the Dead

John 14:6; Matt 6:33

We have gathered here not so much to talk about _____ but to pray for him/her. We believe that our prayer here can help _____ where he/she is now. We know that prayer is powerful, and we believe that we can help the departed by praying for them. The best gift you can now give to _____ is to pray for him/her. There is no better gift you can now give _____. There is nothing that you could now do that would be more helpful and beneficial to him/her than praying for him/her. When we lay a wreath in someone's honor, the flowers will wither but the prayers we offer for someone will never wither. If you say just one "Hail Mary" for _____ it will last into eternity. Prayer has lasting value.

That reminds me of many things we do during life. We do many things during life that in a sense, in the light of eternity, are a waste of time. What really matters in life is putting God first. Jesus said in our Gospel that he is the Way, the Truth and the Life (John 14:6) and if we are not living our lives in union with Jesus then we are not on the way and if we are not on the way we are lost. On one occasion Jesus said, "Seek the kingdom of God first and all these other things will be given you as well." (Matt 6:33) When we do that, when we seek the kingdom of God first, love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, and our neighbor as ourselves, then we are on the way, and not wasting our time.

By Fr. Tommy Lane, S.S.I., S.T.D., reprinted with permission from FrTommyLane.com

