**Prayer at Church**

**When our pastor had to be away one Sunday, my husband, Warren, volunteered to lead the service. Just before he began, a parishioner asked that Charlie R’s name be added to the prayer list. Charlie had been gored by his bull. Warren began, “We have been asked to pray for Charlie R, who is in the hospital because his bull gored him.” Unable to leave it at that, he went on, “Knowing Charlie, after he gets discharged, we’re going to have to add the bull to the prayer list.” *(Linnea Dorau)***

**There was a cartoon in Leadership magazine showing a preacher and a couple of disgruntled parishioners bowing their heads to pray together. The pastor looks at the two men and says, “With our current hard feelings, would anyone mind if I prayed with my eyes open?” *(King Duncan and Angela Akers, in Amusing Grace, p. 97)***

**A Sunday-morning Bible class was discussing prayer and how we can pray. One man told the class, “I do some of my best praying while I’m driving.” His wife, sitting next to him, smiled and quickly added, “That’s really interesting, honey. I do some of my best praying while you’re driving!” *(George Kottwitz, in The Lutheran Witness magazine)***

**One morning at Mass, our youngest son became quite troublesome. At first I gave him a stern fatherly stare, and motioned for him to calm down. When he refused, I took hold of his arm and suggested that he sit still -- but again to no avail. Then, I thought I’d relate the purpose of our Sunday morning visit. “Please stop and do me a favor,” I said, “and say a prayer for your father.” My son looked at me with innocence, “Dad,” he replied, “I have already prayed for you twice.” *(Larry J. Weimer, in Catholic Digest)***

**On the front of a church: “We have a long praying record.” *(King Duncan and Angela Akers, in Amusing Grace, p. 147)***

**During a weekly church meeting, a friend of mine was scheduled to read a list of people who had asked to be included in the congregation’s prayers. Since another church member, Bonnie, had mentioned that she and her husband were struggling with a big decision on whether they should become missionaries, my friend offered to include them on the list. So at the meeting, my friend announced in front of the whole congregation, “Let’s all pray that Bonnie and Lee can make a decision about the missionary position.” *(Carrie Kocik, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Visiting St. Patrick’s Cathedral on a tour of New York City, my daughter and her children were awed by the sight. The kids were especially curious about the votive candles, so my daughter asked if they’d each like to light one. She explained that it is customary to say a prayer of petition or thanks, and she was careful to tell them that these are not like birthday candles. “Do you have any questions?” she asked. “No,” said the five-year-old, “But if there’s a pony on the steps outside, it’s mine.” *(Ann Hasby, in Reader’s Digest)***

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