

corners so that they may be seen by men. (Matt 6:5f) God does not say *if* you pray, but *when* you pray: *Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. (1 Thess 5:16-18)* Get it straight, prayerlessness is sin and the prayerless Christian is powerless. God does not want to see you strut like a peacock and jabber about Him like He's some kind of wooden Indian outside the cigar store! The tragedy of our day is not unanswered prayer but unoffered prayer. Prayer will make us leave off sinning or sin will make us leave off praying. We don't pray because we are too busy or are too distracted, we don't pray because we're not spiritual. We don't pray because we don't love God. Don't tell God you love Him but you refuse to talk to Him. God is not that silly. Don't tell your spouse, your children, your fellow parishioners that you love them in Christ, but you don't have enough mercy in you to pray for them!

How many hours did you watch television this week? How much time did you spend in front of a computer screen or talking, texting and twittering on your mobile phone? How much time did you spend praying? Let me ask you: Who is the Lord of your life? FOX, CNN, AT&T, Google, Hollywood or The Holy Spirit? It's an honest question.

Fervent prayer springs from the soul and rises above the need level. Jesus observed that those who gave much didn't need it. But out of her need, the widow gave. She needed those financial resources, but she trusted God to provide for her daily bread. We never heard her prayer, but God did. And I am certain that based on her faith—not her need—God answered that prayer. The greater the faith, the more needs are cut down to size. Even the impossible as we see it becomes possible in prayer: *The things that are impossible with people are possible with God. (Lk 18:27) AMEN.*

## Poinsettias from the Madonna Council of Catholic Women



Christmas is that special time of the year when we remember our loved ones --those who are with us and those who have departed our world to be with the Lord.

As in past years, St. Thomas More Madonna CCW is again sponsoring poinsettias that will adorn our church during this holiday season -- each plant representing a deceased loved one. The name of your loved ones will be placed on a scroll and they will be remembered at all Masses during the Christmas season.

To reserve Christmas poinsettias, please fill out the form below and return with your donation of \$15.00 per plant for each loved one.

**Please note that the number of poinsettias is limited, so be sure to order early!**

**Deadline is December 17, 2009**

NAME OF DECEASED: \_\_\_\_\_

Ordered by: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make checks (\$15 per plant) payable to Madonna C.C.W. Send to the Parish Office or place envelope with check and information into collection basket during weekend Masses.**

**Thank You and God bless you! Have a joyful Christmas Holiday!**