

5) The Depth of his Devotion (A Man of Prayer) The secret of the blessing in the life of Saint Samaan the Tanner lay in the fact that he was a wonderful man of prayer. It was the lifestyle of the Lord Jesus in his humanity on earth, for the Scripture says: "Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed." (Mk 1:35) It says also: "One of these days Jesus went out to a mountain to pray, and spent the night praying to God." (Lk 6:12) David also teaches us, saying, "But I am a man of prayer." (Ps 109:4) Likewise, Mary enjoyed sitting at Jesus' feet, "choosing what is better, which will not be taken away from her." (13) Prayer is the secret of blessing in the life of the Saints, for it brings loving fellowship between the believer and his God. He said, "And at sunset I go out with the rest of the wage workers and eat just a little, so as to keep myself barely alive. Then I turn to prayer, and stand the whole night praying." For he showed in his secret conversation with the Pope that he spent long hours in prayer. Therefore, the good pleasure of the believer is to spend his time in the presence of God. (Lk 10:42).