

MERCHANTS IN THE TEMPLE TODAY

**You can't buy God with promises.
You have only to surrender to His will.
Prayer is not bargaining, but trusting**

Once, when preaching at the Children's Mass on the passage of Jesus driving away the merchants and traders from the Temple of Jerusalem, with the words: "Get away you, from here! You turned The House of God onto a market place", I told the kids the following story:

Three friends were working in a big Concern in the Cost Accountancy Department. Unfortunately, one day, the concern broke down and the three friends were left jobless. As they were going home they saw an advert saying: "In Willson, Parker & Co, there is a vacancy for a Cost Accountant". Those qualified and with an experience of at least 10 years may apply.

The three friends with joy, immediacy, sent their application. Next, they went to the Church to pray to Jesus:

The first friend, under his breath, prayed thus: "Jesus, dear, give this job to me, not to my friends, I need it very badly.. I promise you that if I secure the job I'll go regularly for Mass every Sunday, and also say my morning and night prayers regularly."

The second friend having heard Tony's prayer, prayed to Jesus in this manner: "Jesus give the job to me! I promise you that if I get the job. I'll go for Mass every Sunday and every Holiday also. Besides, I'll say Rosary every day."

When the third friend heard these prayers, he butted in: "Loving Jesus,, do not give the job to them but to me Look, if I get the job, I'll go Mass and say my Rosary every day, besides, from my salary I, ll give 10 rupees a day to the poor ."

After telling the story to the children, I asked them: "Who can tell who should get the job, and who of the three friends prayed best?"

An eight years old boy raised his hand to give me an answer. I told him: "Dear, speak aloud for all to hear!"

He said: . "Father, none should get the job. None of them prayed.

Of course they prayed, I said

He retorted: **None, father, prayed. All of them were just bargaining with God like the merchants !**