



Perseverance in Prayer.

ANY people complain that their prayers are not heard, says a Paulist Father. Again and again they have made some special requests for temporal, or it may be even for spiritual, blessings, and nothing seems to have come of these petitions. Others get what they ask for, but they are not so favored ; and they almost make up their minds that it is of no use for them to pray. They think, perhaps, that they are too great sinners for God to hear them ; or that they do not know how to pray right ; or they are even tempted to believe that prayer is a mistake altogether ; that God's will is not moved by it ; that, if any one does seem to get anything by it, it is only by chance and would have come without it just as well.

Now what can be the reason of the failure of these good people in prayer ? Is it, perhaps, because what they asked was really an evil for them, and so God could not in mercy grant it, but had to give them something better instead, which they had not noticed ? Or is it that they did not strive to do their best to win what they wanted also by their own exertions as well as by prayer, that they would not put their own shoulder to the wheel ? If it was some virtue, such as charity or patience, that they were asking for, and meanwhile took no real pains to cultivate and practise it, no wonder that God would not give it to them. Or, lastly, is the reason for their disappointment that they were praying for others whose will was obstinately set against their prayers ? A mother prays for her son and her prayers are heard, though they may not seem to be. Graces are granted to him, but he resists them. God has not promised to send them in such a tor-