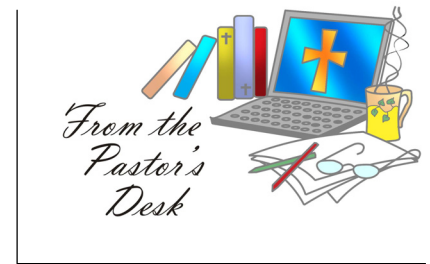


My Dear Friends in Christ,

### Meditations on the “Our Father”... Part Three

For the sake of uniformity the form of the *Our Father* to be used during these meditations will be the one prayed during Holy Mass...

*“Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed by Thy name; Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.”*



“Our,” then is a directive by the Almighty Son of God to gather together. To be become one in the Mystical Body of Christ, to be come one in faith, in practice, in love and worship of the Father. Saint Paul writes, *“As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons, and we were all given to drink of one Spirit. Now the body is not a single part, but many.”* (1Corinthians 12:12-14) We have been joined into this Mystical Body of Christ through this Baptism which makes us a part of Christ, a part of His Church, a part of each other. When we pray then the “Our” of the “Our Father,” we are admitting to God, the community and each other that we are brothers and sisters in Christ. We are related. We are family. And as family, as loved one’s bound together closer than any blood relation, we are a spiritual family, a mystical family part of the Mystical Body of Christ.

Saint Paul goes on to say, *“For as in one body we have many parts, and all the parts do not have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ and individually parts of one another. Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us exercise them: if prophecy, in proportion to the faith; if ministry, in ministering; if one is a teacher, in teaching; if one exhorts, in exhortation; if one contributes, in generosity; if one is over others, with diligence; if one does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.”* (Romans 12:4-8) We find ourselves, then when we pray the “Our Father,” part of two communities, (1) *“though many, are one body in Christ,”* and (2) *“individually parts of one another.”* As one in the Community of Christ we are called to not just praying with one another but *“ministry.”* This level of ministry can be exercised in the one prayer we join in together at the Holy Liturgy on Sunday as *Lectors, Ushers, Extra-Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Altar Servers, and Choir Members.* We are also called by Our Blessed Lord to *“parts of one another.”* This interconnectedness within our community of faith can be exercised by teaching (CCD), generosity in contributions, diligence in stewardship, acts of mercy, food collection, Legion of Mary, Padre Pio Group, Extra-Ordinary Ministers to the Homebound and Hospitals, and so many other actions.

Remarkably, Saint Paul ends his exhortation of being one in Christ with two very simple words. In effect, whatever we are called to do in the sight of Christ, how ever we are to exercise the gifts that Almighty God has given us, they should all be done *“with cheerfulness.”* It is in the attitude of actions, not simply our actions alone that unify and makes us one in the Mystical Body of Christ.

God love you... Father Fernan