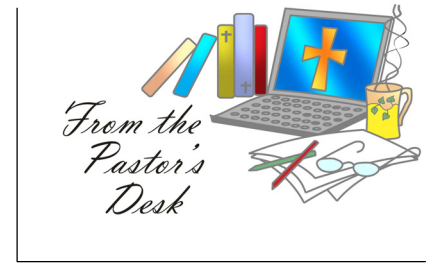


My Dear Friends in Christ,

Meditations on the “Our Father”... Part Four

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.”



Last Sunday, a little one wanted to tell me something. I was so pleased that Mom felt comfortable enough to bring her children to the sacristy so both her children could tell me what was on their minds. The Noon day Mass had been offered for their grandfather so of course their minds were on where Papi was and how he was doing. In the beautiful innocence of a child, Papi was up in heaven... what a wonderful thought to have especially during this Easter Season and isn't Mom doing a great job teaching them the faith. The little girl went on to tell me that Jesus had left us, that He was no longer here on earth with us. Without going into the grand feast of the Church where we celebrate the return of Our Blessed Lord to Heaven after His resurrection called the Ascension, I agreed with this little soul but also told her that Jesus is still

with us in a very special way, in the Holy Communion that her mommy receives every time she attends Mass. She was not so clear on that but she was both pleased to hear that Jesus was still with us and also wondered how He could be in heaven with her Papi and here on earth... in Holy Communion?

In our ever deepening understanding of the Our Father, again looking at the “Our”, we are drawn back once more to the words of Saint Paul, *“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) This interconnectedness of the Mystical Body of Christ, not only unites us to our local community and the in effect all humanity on earth, but it also joins to all creation and all created beings. As *“the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, were covered with eyes inside and out. Day and night they do not stop exclaiming: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God almighty, who was, and who is, and who is to come,”* (Revelation 4:8) so too do we as we offer the “Our Father.” The reality of us being joined with those in heaven is referred to as the Communion of Saints. The whole Church celebrates this grand feast on November 1st of each year, *All Saints Day*. We, however, when we pray the “Our Father” can call to mind with the simplicity of a child's faith that all those who have gone before us are still with us in a most unique way especially as we offer the one prayer given to us by the Son of God. The Almighty is truly Our Father, *“of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth.”* (Philippians 2:10)

God love you... Father