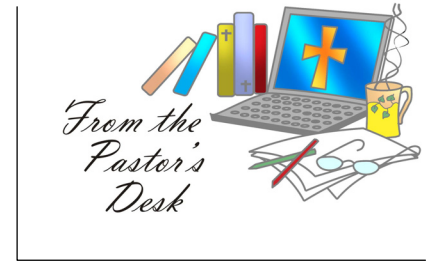


My Dear Friends in Christ,

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

“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.”



As we have already begun looking into the prayer the “Our Father,” we spent some time understanding that we often impose our own feelings and impressions upon a person, place, situation or even God. There was much made of what kind of person Pope Benedict XVI was as Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger. Before Pope Benedict was chosen by God through the votes cast within the College of Cardinals, he had the persona of being an “enforcer” of sorts because of his prior responsibilities. We all know that our job, even though it may take up the majority of our day, does not nor should not define “who” we are. Sometimes because of a

certain position we hold, we are actually called to act in ways that we would not normally. So the press corps seemed poised to jump on this perceived persona of Pope Benedict XVI. Another, “strike against” this Holy Father, was that he did not immediately act as Pope John Paul II. Again, almost immediately and quite unfairly, there was a rush to judgment in a negative comparison to Pope John Paul II from the beginning of Pope Benedict XVI pontificate. No one knew what to expect and remarkably at almost every turn, His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI surprised and delighted the masses and possibly healed or began the healing of so many more.

Titled “*Christ our Hope*” or possibly “The Restoration of Faith,” His Holiness following the motto of his predecessor, Pope John Paul II in “*Be Not Afraid...*,” when on the plane to Washington, addressed a reporter’s question concerning the “Crisis in the Church regarding Abusive Priests.” The tone had been set. His Holiness, who spoke about TRUTH throughout his visit to the United States, addressed the truth of the Crisis with honesty, humility, compassion, sorrow, empathy and directly. Thank you, Holy Father for beginning the healing. We need your continued prayers and direction so that the still raw or scarred wounds of so many may be healed with the grace of Almighty God.

At the United Nations, the Holy Father addressed the TRUTH of its original charter as well as the need for a return to those foundational elements. He also addressed the truth of the equality of all humanity in any state, region, not dependent upon rank or faith but at the same time making sure not to limit or squash the practice of any faith. Pope Benedict also carried this message of TRUTH to the White House, our Jewish brethren, our Christian brothers and sisters and the youth and all of the Catholic Church.

“Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” (John 14:6) Let us pray, through the example of the Holy Father, for the truth of the love of Jesus, the Father and the Holy Spirit will enflame the world, because then “you (we) will know the truth, and the truth will set you (us) free.” (John 8:32)

God love you... Father Fernan