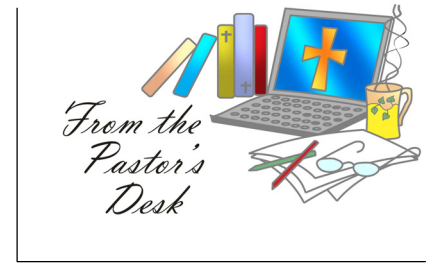


My Dear Friends in Christ,

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

“Our Father...”

“Then God said: *“Let us make man in **Our image**, after **Our likeness**. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and the cattle, and over all the wild animals and all the creatures that crawl on the ground.”* **God created man in His image; in the divine image He created him; male and female He created them. God blessed them... looked at everything He had made, and He found it **very good**. Evening came, and morning followed--the sixth day.”** (Genesis 1:26-31)



Through the five previous days of Creation from the first chapter of Genesis, we learned that God Our Father is the author of all creation and all that flowed from Him during this formative process was good. Therefore, following through with Jesus’ own words, “*A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a rotten tree bear good fruit...*”, God, Himself, His nature, is good or all goodness. As Author, Father or Parent, and all of you parents can understand this, there is an imprint left upon the creation or the child/children. The parent wishes to give to the children everything that they have or didn’t have, while even more importantly, give themselves, their loves, their desires, their values, their dreams, to their children. We see that God did just that when He said, “*Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and the cattle, and over all the wild animals and all the creatures that crawl on the ground,*” and “*God blessed them, saying: “Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things that move on the earth.”* God also said: “*See, I give you every seed-bearing plant all over the earth and every tree that has seed-bearing fruit on it to be your food; and to all the animals of the land, all the birds of the air, and all the living creatures that crawl on the ground, I give all the green plants for food.”* (Genesis 1:28-30) The Parent, the Father has made sure that His children are and will be well taken care of. The Father, though, has given and done something even more important, more remarkable.

“*In the divine image He created him; male and female He created them.*” God has imprinted upon us His very image. We have been created in the likeness of the Almighty, the Author of Life, the Eternal Good. **Our image, Our likeness** is modeled after The Image of God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The Father has given us, His creation, His very self.

The painting to the right is *The Bliss of Paradise*, by Victor Vansnetsov, 1885-96, a fresco in the Cathedral of St. Vladimir, Kiev, Ukraine. The idea that after we were created and in the Divine Image we were created, that we were in the state of bliss is a thought almost too much to comprehend and at the same time the reason that all humanity has sought to return to the Almighty, to the womb of Our Creator, to this state of bliss. That is why we are never nor could we be happy here. We, created by Our Father, to remain with Him forever in heaven, in a state of bliss, are constantly striving to return home.



God Our Father, lead us home to the place You have prepared for us from the beginning of time.

God love you... Father Fernan