

"In the beginning
was the Word,
and the Word was
with God, and the
Word was God."
—John 1:1

The Lord's Flock
Growth
DIGEST
PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES



“ The Lord’s Prayer ”

By : Rev. Fr. Rey Gella
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First Part of the Prayer

1st Element: “Our Father in Heaven” God is our Father who is in heaven. We call on Him with reverence.

2nd Element: “Thy Kingdom Come.”

The Kingdom of God is the center of Christ’s preaching. This kingdom is already here but not yet. It is in the past, the present, the future, and all the time.

3rd Element: “Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”

For Jesus, the most important thing in life is to obey God’s will. It is difficult for Jesus to refuse the pain at the cross because He loves his Father. His food is to do the will of God (John 4:34).

If we reflect about our day-to-day life, we realize that we sometimes do not follow the will of God. We claim it is difficult to know God’s will. We are often confused. We even ask God for signs.

We should understand that we do not need signs. What we need is to understand that His will must be done. His will is in His words: the Ten Commandments (Old Testament), the Beatitudes (New Testament).

Second Part of the Prayer

4th Element: “Give us today our daily bread.”

What is bread? Bread is what sustains us in order to live physically and spiritually. Bread is the food that we need to nourish our soul.

Many have already forgotten God because of their search for bread – also used as slang for money. They have ignored their obligation to attend Holy Mass on Sundays.

The most important bread that we need is the “Living Bread”, Jesus Christ, “The Bread of Life”. (John 6:35)

For Jesus, His bread is to do the will of His Father. God’s will for Him is to suffer and to save us from our sins. How about us? What is God’s will for us? His will for us is to be one, to love each other, and to forgive each other.

5th Element: “Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.”

We all commit sins. In his eternal mercy, God gave us the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Let us ask for forgiveness. At the same time, let us forgive those who have sinned against us. To forgive others may be difficult but it is what Jesus wants us to do.

6th Element: “Do not bring us to the test. But deliver us from evil.”

The evil is Lucifer. We should be delivered from this person.

Test is allowed – not to lead us into sin but to fortify us. Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into the desert where He, as a man, was tested. Tests can make us stronger and better.

The Lord’s Prayer is a complete prayer. It is a means of raising to God our past, present, and future. It is a prayer that only real disciples can pray. Jesus chose these words to teach us how to pray as we ought to do so.