

"...he left and went off to a deserted place...where he prayed."

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Today's Gospel, which I just read to you from St. Mark, is clear in its 2-fold message:

- 1.) We should turn to Jesus in our needs for ourselves and family/friends, as the 1st-pope-to-be, Simon-Peter, turned to Jesus to heal his ailing mother-in-law.
- 2.) Like Jesus did, we too should go off to some deserted or quiet place to pray.

Since those messages are so clear, I have decided to employ a different 'tact' today. It's about prayer. It's about a specific prayer. It's about a prayer we say all the time, esp. when together.

I want to talk to you about ...the **Our Father**.

In my presentation of this Our Father ...it's a two-way conversation. So, to begin...

Once upon a time, a certain fellow had this, unexpected dialogue with the Almighty.
He began:

"Our Father Who Art in Heaven."

Yes?

Don't interrupt me. I'm praying.

But -- you called **ME!**

Called **you**? No, **I** didn't call you.

I'm praying:

"Our Father who art in Heaven."

There -- you **did** it again!

Did **what**?

CALLED me. You said...

"Our Father who art in Heaven"

Well, here I am.

What's on your mind?

But I didn't mean anything by it.

I was, you know, just saying my prayers for the day.

I always say the Lord's Prayer.

It makes me feel good, kind of like fulfilling a duty.

Well ...all right.

Go on.

Okay, "Hallowed be thy name."

Hold it **right there**.

What do you **mean** by that?

By **what**?

By ..."**Hallowed** be Thy name"?

It means, it means ... Good grief, I don't know what it means.

How in the world should **I** know?

It's just a part of the prayer.

By the way, what **does** it mean?

It means: "**honored,**" "**holy,**" "**wonderful.**"

Hey, that makes sense.

I never thought about what '**hallowed**' meant before.

Thanks.

"Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven."

Do you really **mean** that?

Sure, why not?

So,-o, what are you **doing** about it?

Doing? Why, nothing, I guess.

I just think it would be kind of neat if you got control of everything down here
...like you have up there.

We're kinda in a **mess** down here, you know.

Yes, I know; but, have I got control of **you**?

Well ...I go to church.

That isn't what I asked you.

What about your bad temper?

You've really got a problem there, you know.

And then there's the way you spend your money – so much on yourself.

And what about the kind of books you read? And those DVD's!

Now hold on --just a minute!

Stop picking on me!

I'm just as good as the rest of those people at church!

Excuse ME.

I thought you were praying for **my** will to be done.

If that is to happen, it will have to start with the ones who are praying for it.

Like **you** -- for example.

Oh, all right. I guess I **do** have some hang-ups.

Now that you mention it, I could probably name some others.

So could I.

I haven't thought about it very much until now,

But... I really would like to cut out some of those 'things.'

I would like to, you know, be ...really ...**free**.

Good.

Now we're getting somewhere.

We'll work together -- You and ME.

I'm proud of you.

Look, Lord, if you don't mind, I need to finish up here.

This is taking a lot longer than it usually does.

"Give us this day, our daily bread."

You need to cut out the bread.

You're overweight as it is.

Hey, wait a minute! What is this?

Here I was doing my religious duty, and all of a sudden,

You break in and remind me of all my hang-ups.

Praying is a dangerous thing.

You just might get what you ask for.

Remember, you called ME -- and here I am.

It's too late to stop now.

Keep praying. (Pause ...)

Well, go on.

I'm scared to.

Scared? Scared of what?

I know what you'll say.

Try ME.

“Forgive us our trespasses, **as we forgive those** ...who trespass against us.”

What about Ann?

See? I knew it!

I knew you would bring her up!

Why, Lord, she's told lies about me, spread stories.

She never paid back the money she owes me.

I've sworn to get even with her!

But -- your prayer --

What about your prayer?—you know—about ‘trespasses?’

I didn't -- mean it...

Well, at least you're honest.

But, it's quite a load, carrying around all that bitterness and resentment, isn't it?

Yes, but I'll feel better as soon as I get even with her.

Boy, do I have some plans for her.

She'll wish she had never been born.

No, you won't ...feel any better.

You'll feel worse.

Revenge isn't ...sweet.

You know how unhappy you are?

Well, I can change all that.

You can? How?

Forgive Ann.

Then, I'll forgive you; and the hate and the sin...

will all be Ann's problem -- not yours.

You will have settled the problem ...as far as you're concerned.

Oh, you know ...you're right.

You always are.

And more than I want revenge,

I want to be ‘right’ with You... ^(sigh)

All right, all right. I ...forgive ...Ann!

There now... wonderful!

How do you feel?

Hmmmm. Well, not bad. Not bad... at all!

In fact ...I feel pretty great!

You know, I don't think I'll go to bed uptight tonight.

I haven't been getting much rest, you know.

Yeah, I know.

But, you're not through with your prayer, are you?

Go on.

Oh, all right.

“And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.”

Good! Good! I'll do that.

Just don't, willingly, put yourself in a place where you can be tempted.

What do you mean by that?

You know what I mean!

Yeah. I know.

Okay.

Go ahead. Finish your prayer...the 'Protestant part' ...you say at Mass.

Oh, yeah.

*“For Thine is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory forever.”*

*Do you know what would bring me glory --?
What would really make me happy?*

No.

But I'd like to know.

I want to please you now.

I've really made a mess of things.

I want to truly ...follow you.

I can see, now, how great that would be.

So, tell me . . .

How do I make you happy?

You just did!

*May Our Father, “**Who art in heaven,**” our Abba,
bless you...the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.*