



July 24, 2022

**Saints Joachim and Anne,
Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

*"So, I say to you, ask and you will receive; seek and you will find;
knock and the door will be opened to you." Luke – 11:9"*



Dear Friends;

In an article titled *"Have Catholics been praying the Our Father all wrong?"* Nathan Schneider points out that in Scripture we have two versions of the Lord's Prayer or Our Father. One in Luke which we heard today and the one in Matthew. The version from Luke is shorter and scholars think closer to the original taught by Jesus. And the version we pray in the liturgy is close to Matthew's version but not exactly. The English liturgical version that is prayed is based on a rendition by the Protestant reformer William Tyndale.

Schneider goes on to show how there is a long and venerable tradition of creating different versions of the Lord's prayer. This goes all the back to the early period of the Church and continues today. Rewriting or rephrasing the Our Father is a devotion practiced by St Teresa of Avila, St Francis de Sales, St Francis of Assisi and others. St Francis of Assisi began his version,

*You who are in heaven:
In the angels and saints,
enlightening them to know, for you, Lord, are light;
inflaming them to love, for you, Lord, are love;
dwelling in them and filling them with happiness,
for you, Lord, are Supreme Good, the Eternal Good,
from whom all good comes
without whom there is no good.*

The early Christian writer Tertullian considered the Lord's Prayer to be the epitome of the Gospel. He begins his book on prayer (200 CE) examining the Our Father phrase by phrase. Some Protestant Churches refer to the Our Father as *"The Model Prayer."* In other words, the prayer becomes a pattern for how to pray rather than just memorized. We need a standard version so we can pray it together; but in our own praying we can be free to speak it in our own words.

One example of rewriting the Our Father is how the prayer reads in the Cherokee.

*Our Father heaven dweller,
Glorified will be your name.
You are God let it be known,
Here on earth let it be as you think it.*

Another example from the Free Church of Berkeley:

*Abba, Father
Blessed be your working;
Soon be your appearing;
Done be your desiring.*

The important thing is that Jesus gives us a pattern of how to pray with confidence and daring. We need to make it ours. Let us not just race through it with out considering the words we are speaking. Today we celebrate the Feast of Joaquim and Anne, parents of Mary and grandparents to Jesus. Scholars tell us that the prayer Jesus teaches is in line with Jewish Tradition, which he would have learned from his family. We too are called to hand on the art of intimate conversation with God to our children, family and friends. We teach them the pattern and then pray they make it their own.

Peace,

Fr Ron

Esta carta está en español en el sitio web: www.anne.church