



Archdiocesan Program

WHY CATHOLIC?

STRENGTHENING FAITH ... MAKING DISCIPLES



CHRISTIAN PRAYER

TOWARD THE GLORY OF THE FATHER

Biblical Reflection: Mt 5:21-26

The first series of petitions carries us toward him, for his own sake: *thy* name, *thy* kingdom, *thy* will! It is characteristic of love to think first of the one whom we love. In none of the three petitions do we mention ourselves; the burning desire, even anguish, of the beloved Son for his Father's glory seizes us: "hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done..." These three supplications were already answered in the saving sacrifice of Christ, but they are henceforth directed in hope toward their final fulfillment, for God is not yet all in all. (CCC 2804)

In the waters of Baptism, we have been "washed... sanctified... justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of God." Our Father calls us to holiness in the whole of our life... (CCC 2813)

By asking "hallowed be thy name" we enter into God's plan, the sanctification of his name -revealed first to Moses and then in Jesus- by us and in us, in every nation and in each man. (CCC 2858)

By the second petition, the Church looks first to Christ's return and the final coming of the Reign of God. It also prays for the growth of the Kingdom of God in the "today" of our own lives. (CCC 2559)

In the third petition, we ask our Father to unite our will to that of his Son, so as to fulfill his plan of salvation in the life of the world. (CCC 2860)

"Even if it had not been prescribed to pray for the coming of the kingdom, we would willingly have brought forth this speech, eager to embrace our hope..." Tertullian (CCC 2817)

Questions for discussion:

- **With our mouth we say "Our Father", but do you really believe that God is Father of all, the good and bad people of this world, blacks and whites, Muslims and Christians?**
- **What do you have to change in order to be able to see everyone as your brother or sister and help them according to your possibilities?**
- **How can you say "thy will be done" and at the same time do everything that God doesn't want? What do you have to do to change?**
- **How could you help/contribute to make this world really a reflection of God's will for all?**

Further reading: Catechism of the Catholic Church, numbers 2803-2827; and 2857-2860