



# Archdiocesan Program

## WHY CATHOLIC?

STRENGTHENING FAITH ... MAKING DISCIPLES



## CHRISTIAN PRAYER

### *A CALL TO THE FATHER OF MERCIES*

#### **Biblical Reflection: Lk 11:5-13**

The second series of petitions unfolds with the same movement as certain Eucharist epiclesis: as an offering up of our expectations, that draws down upon itself the eyes of the Father of mercies. They go up from us and concern us from this very moment, in our present world: “give us... forgive us... lead us... deliver us...” The fourth and fifth petitions concern our life as such—to be fed and to be healed of sin; the last two concern our battle for the victory of life-- that battle of prayer. (CCC 2805)

In the fourth petition, by saying “give us,” we express in communion with our brethren our filial trust in our heavenly Father. “Our daily bread” refers to the earthly nourishment necessary to everyone for subsistence, and also to the Bread of Life; the Word of God and the Body of Christ... (CCC 2861)

The fifth petition begs God’s mercy for our offences, mercy which can penetrate our hearts only if we have learned to forgive our enemies, with the example and help of Christ. (CCC 2862)

When we say “lead us not into temptation” we are asking God not to allow us to take the path that lead to sin... (CCC 2863). In the last petition, “but deliver us from evil,” Christians pray to God with the Church to show forth the victory, already won by Christ, over the “ruler of this world” ... (CCC 2863)

*“Then, after the prayer is over you say ‘Amen,’ which means ‘So be it; thus ratifying with our ‘Amen’ what is contained in the prayer that God has taught us” St. Cyril of Jerusalem. (CCC 2856)*

#### **Questions for discussion:**

- **We ask the Father for our daily bread, material and spiritual but, what do we do about the hunger and need that surrounds us?**
- **We ask forgiveness but, do we truly forgive those who have offended or hurt us?**
- **Is there anyone out there that you cannot forgive? How can you remedy that?**
- **What do we mean by “I forgive but not forget”? Is this a real forgiveness?**
- **We ask God to “lead us not into temptation”, but willingly we enter into situations that normally are occasion for us to sin. What do you think about this?**
- **The Devil is an enemy that has been already overcome by Christ in the Cross. Satan has no power to force me to sin unless I willingly let him enter into my heart and life. What do you think about the evil that surrounds us? What are your excuses to do what you want and like?**
- **What do you think is the meaning of the *Amen* that we say after our prayers and upon receiving Communion?**

**Further reading:** Catechism of the Catholic Church, numbers 2828-2856; and 2861-2865

