

Reflection Saturday 6th Week Easter 2022

Knowing that because we love Christ, the Father loves us is both encouraging and uplifting. It helps us understand what Jesus is saying about asking God for anything in his name. When Jesus taught us to pray by giving us the 'Our Father', we say regularly to the Father *Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven*. Whenever we pray, deep down we pray with the desire to do God's will. At the same time, we hope that the Father's will corresponds to the intention(s) for which we pray. Praying in this way, seeking to fulfil the Father's will, also enables us to see that God works his blessings in other ways when our appeals are not answered. It also helps us realise that none of our prayers go unanswered. It is just that they are answered in ways that we least expect. Given time we will see how the wisdom of God is at work in us and through us.

Pope Francis: *Prayer is not a magic wand: It is a dialogue with the Lord. Indeed, when we pray, we can give in to the risk of not being the ones to serve God, but of expecting God to serve us. This is a prayer that is always demanding, that wants to direct events according to our own design, that admits no plans other than our own desires. Jesus, on the other hand, had great wisdom in teaching us the Lord's Prayer. It is a prayer of questions only, as we know, but the first ones we utter are all on God's side. They ask for the fulfilment not of our plan, but of His will for the world. Better to leave it to Him: "Hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done" (Mt 6:9-10).*

The Sargent walked into the barracks asking if anyone knew shorthand. When a few raised their hands, hoping for easy work, the Sargent said, "*Good, they're shorthanded in the mess hall!*"

A woman called our airline customer-services asking if she could take her dog on board. "Yes," I said, "as long as you provide your own kennel." I further explained that the kennel needed to be large enough for the dog to stand up, sit down, turn around, and roll over. The customer was flummoxed: "*I'll never be able to teach him all of that by tomorrow!*"