

Encouragement

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Trinity of Love... Call me Father

THE HOST APOSTOLATE

WWW.THEHOSTAPOSTOLATE.ORG

14, GOATBECK TERRACE,

LANGLEY MOOR,

COUNTY DURHAM DH7 8JJ

thehostapostolate@gmail.com

At the end of May we had the wondrous feast of Pentecost, the descent of the promised Holy Spirit, promised by Jesus as he ascended to Heaven. In times past the Holy Spirit was, perhaps neglected save for 'Confirmation' or mentioned as part of the Sign of the Cross or a Blessings. The Charismatic movement did much to remind us of the third person of the Trinity. – Jesus, of course, having been brought to us continually through Scripture. Yet he himself constantly reminded us of His relationship with His Heavenly Father. We also witness the role of the Trinity at the Baptism of Jesus and at the Transfiguration and of course in the most famous of all prayer—The Our Father.

Yes, Our Father... I wonder how often we reflect on the meaning of this statement. Do we in fact relate to the Father as *Our* Father in any personal way? Often when we think of God we think of a popular image of Him as an elderly gentleman with a beard sitting on some sort of throne. 'God and Father' seem to indicate, to many the same thing, interchangeable. We then have to place Jesus and the Holy Spirit in some kind of relationship and affinity and confusion often arises, even though we say God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Indeed, there have been many statements and heresies about the nature of the Son and Holy Spirit. Jesus on the other hand makes all clear: never more so than in His prayer to His Father, the Our Father, and in St John's Gospel prior to the Ascension. This beautiful Gospel should be read very slowly and reflectively as it contains so many Truths and indicates His relationship of coequality and nature with the Father.

This Gospel (John Ch. 16:23 through to Ch. 17:1-11.) leaves us with little doubt that Jesus had a loving relationship with His Father. His love and obedience were manifest many times never more so than when dying on the Cross- 'Father forgive them' and 'It is Finished' – and of course 'Thy will be done.'



With this in mind and the many people who find it hard to pray the 'Our Father' with meaning, for an assortment of reasons, not least of which a poor relationship with their own father- I thought of maybe bringing a few ideas about the Father which have helped me and deepened, I hope, my own understanding. Blessed with a loving relationship with my own father, I realised that the Fatherhood of God had infinitely greater meaning for us.

We acknowledge God the Father as the Creator of heaven and earth in the Creed: the opening words. We affirm that Jesus is His Son and Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit as the Lord and Giver of life. They were not created but coexisted and exist, in a Union that cannot be explained or truly, utterly understood. St Thomas Aquinas, as theologian, learnt that well, as he tried to unravel this truth, deciding that we simply have to 'adore' it in faith.

I came across however, a wonderful teaching given to a religious Sister, Mother Eugenia Ravasio. Born in 1904, of a poor family she became a Sister of the Congregation of Our Lady of the Apostles at the age of twenty. She had such insight and discernment she was made superior at the age of only twenty-five. She became a missionary working in Africa, Asia, and Europe opening Dispensaries. She also founded and opened a Leper Colony called 'Leper City' in the Ivory Coast, a leading centre even today for the treatment of that disease. She also was the first to discover a treatment for leprosy using a tropical plant which was later taken up by the Louis Pasteur Institute in Paris. Certainly, a lady of some stature and humility as well as action. It was to her that the Father revealed something about His nature and essence now referred to as 'The Father Speaks to His Children.'

We associate the revelation of the Mercy of God, in Scripture, and as given to Sister Faustyna through

'The source of justice is not vengeance but Charity'

St. Bridget of Sweden.

Jesus. Divine Mercy and the trust in Jesus has become universally accepted and especially in the Papacy of the last three Popes. Acknowledging that Mercy comes from God as Union in the Trinity, Mother Eugenia had many additional teachings given to her about God the Father as a fount of Charity. We are used to the idea of an 'Ocean of Mercy' but the Father revealed to her the 'Ocean of Charity'.

Jesus said to the 'Woman at the well' (John Ch. 4) that he could give her water that would quench her thirst, living water. – and God is the Source of that living water. Again, in that Gospel mentioned earlier, Jesus tells us that whatever we ask of the Father in His name, in the name of Jesus, will be granted to us. To Mother Eugenia He said...

'But you say to Me, how can we come to You? Oh, come by the path of confidence, call Me your Father, love me in Spirit and Truth, and this will be enough to make the refreshing and powerful water quench your thirst. But if you really want this water to give you all you need to know and love, and if you feel cold and indifferent call Me by the sweet name of Father and I will come to you. My spring will give you love, confidence and everything you need to be loved forever by your Father and Creator.'

Then the Father added... *I am the Ocean of Charity, My children. I desire most to be known by all of you, so that you can enjoy even here on earth, My Goodness and My Tenderness. Make yourselves apostles of those who do not know Me, and I will Bless your toil and effort preparing great glory for you and Me in eternity.*

He goes on to reveal that He excludes no one and if we cast ourselves into that Ocean- and stay there as 'we work and live' our normal lives- this life will be sanctified through Charity. He wishes to be loved and honoured as the first Commandment dictates. He is the King of the Universe and Father of All. He made us in His own image so that we can relate to Him and speak to Him as a loving Abba, Father, Daddy. His love is so manifest in that He gave us His own Son.

My words are but a paltry few and I recommend that you read the little booklet... which is available and online. (They have been extensively examined by Church authorities and declare free from error). Mother Eugenia died in 1990 as Mother General of Her Community having herself suffered greatly.

May I call you Father?...Food and drink for thought.....

Keep well , trust well and pray!

Halina Holman

*Embracing God
as Father of Love
and Tenderness*

Pope Francis

"This is how God's shows His tenderness. He speaks to us... This is the time to enter into ourselves and to remember the Father and return to our Daddy. 'But, Father, I'm ashamed to go back because, you know, Father I've ...done so many things wrong'. What will the Lord say? 'Return. I will heal their defection. I will love them freely; for my wrath is turned away from them (Hosea 14:4).' Return to your Father. The God of tenderness will heal us. This Father will heal us of so many of life's wounds. Going back to God is going back to an embrace, the Father's embrace, It's not going to God. No, it's going back home." Rome March 2020

Dear Lord and Father of Mankind

Forgive our foolish ways,

Reclothe us in our rightful mind,

In purer live thy service find,

In deeper reverence praise, in deeper reverence praise.

John Greenleaf Whittier

Feasts Days in June

1st Mary, Mother of the Church

4th Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Eternal High Priest

5th St. Boniface

7th (Sunday) The Holy Trinity

9th St. Columba

11th St. Barnabas, Apostle

13th St. Anthony of Padua, Priest

14th (Sunday) Corpus Christi

19th The Sacred Heart of Jesus

20th The Immaculate Heart of Mary

21st Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary time

22nd St. Thomas More, Martyr 23rd St. Etheldreda

24th The Birth of St. John the Baptist

27th St. Cyril of Alexandria, Bishop

28th Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary time

29th St. Peter and St. Paul, Apostles

30th First Martyrs of the Church of Rome