

The Most Holy Trinity C June 16, 2019

- ◆ Is the Church changing the words of the “Our Father”?
- ◆ Father’s Day
- ◆ Holy Trinity Sunday
- ◆ Outreach to needy Brevard School children
- ◆ Departure for Uganda and Ireland

I was surprised when a parishioner texted me about the revised “*Our Father*.” I did not know it at the time but I later discovered that there indeed was a change. Sometime ago, the Italian Conference of Catholic Bishops had petitioned the Vatican to make a small revision in the wording of The Lord’s Prayer. The petition was approved by Pope Francis although the change only applied to Catholics in Italy and not to the Universal Church.

The Lord’s Prayer change

In *The Lord’s Prayer*, the phrase “*And lead us not into temptation*” has been replaced by “*Do not let us fall into temptation.*” The previous wording does seem to imply that *God paves the way* for us to temptation. In his Epistle, St. James says: “*God cannot be tempted by evil and he himself tempts no one*” (1:13). In the original Greek, “*Lead us*” means both “*Do not allow us to enter into*” and “*Do not let us yield*” (The Catechism of the Catholic Church, Art. 2846). The Italian bishops may have been seeking a more accurate translation of The Lord’s Prayer to set straight the misstatement that God leads us into temptation. It is Satan—not God—who leads us into temptation.

The Gloria change

One line in the Gloria will change from “*Peace on earth to people of good will*” to “*Peace on earth to people beloved by God*”. I have not seen anything on *why* the Italian bishops asked for this new wording. I assume they believe that it is a more accurate translation of the Latin text. Personally I like both changes.

It would seem that Pope Francis is open to giving more authority to National Conferences of Bishops to make changes in the translation of the Prayers of the Mass. Will other National Conferences of Bishops adopt the

Italian changes? We don’t know but I’ve heard that some have already said they will *not* be doing so.

Father’s Day

Today, we pause to give thanks for our fathers, living and deceased. As with Mother’s Day, Father’s Day is one of mixed emotions for many people. Ideally, all of us should, like Valerie Dillon in the reflection below, have positive feelings about our father. But in reality, that is not the way it is for lots of people. Many sons and daughters have a broken relationship with their father. Many boys and girls reach their adulthood with what psychologists call a “father-hunger” in their psyche. This means that they have never been validated, nurtured or affirmed by a father figure. However, many men go on to be very good fathers, and many women end up marrying a man who is not emotionally absent to them like their father. Others, sad to say, are not as fortunate.

Valerie Dillon reflects on what it means to be a good father

Valerie Dillon used to have a regular column in *Columbia*, the Knights of Columbus’ monthly magazine. In one of her columns, she wrote about her relationship with her own father and what a good father should be.

Never a Father’s Day comes ‘round that I don’t think of my own father, gone from us for more than 20 years, but always fresh in my memories.

I think of him, sunburned and smiling, cigar in hand, sitting in a bleacher seat at Comiskey Park in Chicago. His passion—and mine—was the Chicago White Sox, and we were pals.

My dad was a gently, dignified man who never raised his voice, never criticized, always expected the best from me. He went to Mass with us every Sunday morning, which is not surprising—except he wasn’t Catholic.

*I guess my father’s greatest gift to me was he **loved me unconditionally**. When I learned that he had died, unexpectedly, my first thought was: “In all my life, Dad never said one unkind or harsh word to me!” I know now that he was the person most responsible for helping me to believe in a loving God.*

On Father's Day, I honor my dad and also all of those fathers who try so hard to be good to their children.

Once a man was a "good father" if he worked hard and provided well for his family. But, today, perhaps more than ever before, we realize how much children need their dads to be loving and involved fathers.

What can a father give to his sons and daughters to enrich their lives and cause them to bless and revere their dad?

*There is **time**, given generously and graciously, even when other matters press him down. When a father takes time to listen to his kids, to laugh at their fifth grade jokes, to have fun with them, to be present for the important events in their lives—he communicates an unmistakable message: "You matter to me, I love you." Nothing says it better.*

*There is a willingness to **share feelings**.... So hard for men who were raised to think that being strong means never admitting fear, pain or weakness. Instead, children need to know their fathers as fully human, to see the vulnerable and tender side, to watch how dad handles hard times and hurts as well as success.*

*A good father has **integrity**. He keeps his word even—especially—to his kids and his wife. In a time when a sense of honor and responsibility seem in short supply, children need such a model.*

A good father loves his kids' mother, and gives example to his sons what a loving man is like, while showing his daughters what they should expect in their own future. Even if the marriage is troubled or broken, such a father knows that "kids are non-divorceable." At the least, they need to see respect, gentleness and friendship between their parents.

*A good father **shares home responsibilities** with his wife, who is probably also employed outside the home. This does not lessen his "dignity" or manhood, but shows a true spirit of partnership.*

*A **sense of humor** and a spirit of playfulness are wonderful traits in a father. If dad can laugh when the diaper is dirty or the car door is scratched...if he can enjoy having fun with his family, and see life's humorous side—he offers them memories for a lifetime.*

If you would be a good father, it's impossible to overestimate the necessity of being a healthy person. Alcoholism, an inability to share feelings or to be affectionate, an addiction to work or television, an explosive temper—all of these suggest emotional needs or problems that need to be addressed. No parent can give what he or she doesn't have.

A loving father does not live through his children. He does not expect to find his own identity nor sense of worth in what his children can accomplish, even as he takes pride in their good works. This allows him to be

moderate in criticism and realistic in expectations.

*A good father is a **man of faith**. He believes in a God of mercy and goodness. He is not embarrassed to talk about it, nor to show his dependence on God. He prays with his children day-by-day and, especially, in moments of crisis and loss. Such faith is a precious heritage to his children when lack of faith is everywhere.*

Mystery of the Trinity

The following reflection was written by Fr. Denis McBride, CSSR.

John and Josephine have just celebrated their fortieth wedding anniversary. Since their four children have left home and married, they have spent seventeen years on their own, a time they describe as "a new growing towards each other." When they were asked why they still enjoyed each other's company, Josephine replied: "We've always had a healthy respect for each other's differences. And we're still growing to know each other better. I just wish that we could have communicated with each other years ago the way we do now. But perhaps our easiness with each other now could only come about because of all the struggles we went through."

The longer we are acquainted with people, the more we grow to realize how little we know them. Family and friends continue to surprise us, reminding us that they are always more than our understanding of them. We can all give instant impressions of people after knowing them only for a week, but if we're honest with ourselves, we have to admit that our clarity is born of ignorance. We can have epic conversations about a new acquaintance, but the lengthy talk is mostly guesswork, makeshift images built from a few clues.

Unless we settle for stereotypes, understanding other people is a lifetime's task. It is hardly surprising, therefore, that when it comes to understanding God, we can become paralyzed by the sheer magnitude of the mystery.

The Mystery of God

The more we discover about God, the greater becomes the mystery of his presence and love. The considerable knowledge of the Church can never dispel the mystery of ages. Mystery means that we can never say the final word about God; there is always more to discover, there is always more to share, there is always more to experience. In that sense the mystery of God invites us never to abandon the endless task of growing to understand the power behind the world we live in. And each year, Trinity Sunday calls us to reflect on the life of God.

As Christians, our principal entrance into the mystery of God is the person of Jesus. He is the Way, the Truth and the Life. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creations, the Word made flesh among us. As Jesus said to the apostle Philip: "He who has seen me has seen the Father." Jesus is God's adventure among us. To make our journey to God we begin with him. And the Good News we heard today tells us that Jesus has promised to accompany us until the journey to God is completed: "Know that I am with you always, to the end of time."

In the person of Jesus, the mystery of God has a face, a voice, a language, a love, a life. In the pages of the Gospel we meet Jesus' friends and enemies, his enthusiasms and dislikes; we are caught up in his struggle for what is right; we are challenged to keep alive the values he cherished. In the three years of his public ministry, the light from light shone among us. In Jesus we are still able to taste and see the goodness of God. God's particulars are revealed in him. "He who has seen me has seen the Father." To look on the Son of God is to begin to understand the mystery of God.

The feast of Pentecost that we celebrated last week reminded us that we cannot begin to understand the truth of God unless we are gifted with the power of the Spirit. Even the apostles could not recognize the full truth about the Jesus they knew and loved without the gift of the Spirit. The same is true for us: to understand Jesus, we need the Spirit. To reach the Father, we need to go via the Son. So it is the mystery of the Trinity that is at the heart of the Christian life of faith. Which is why we begin and end everything in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

(Used with permission granted by Denis McBride, CSsR, Seasons of the Word.)



Prayer to the Blessed Trinity

***You, Eternal Trinity,
are a sea so deep
that the more I enter in,
the more I find;
and the more I find,
the more I seek of you;
for when the soul is satisfied in your abyss,
it is not satisfied,
but it ever continues to thirst for you,
Eternal Trinity,
desiring to behold you
with the light of your light.***

***As the heart desires
the springs of living water,
so does my soul desire
to leave the prison of this dark body
and to behold you in truth.
O how long shall your face
be hidden from my eyes?
O abyss, O eternal Godhead, O deep sea!
Clothe me with yourself, Eternal Trinity,
so that I may run this mortal life
with true obedience,
and with the light of your most holy faith.
Amen.***

- St. Catherine of Siena

Outreach to needy Brevard School students

One of my mottos is: "Charity begins at home, but not stays at home." I like to think that we, as a parish, help those in need at home and abroad. This past week, I received the following letter from the Brevard Schools Office.

Dear Fr. Tobin,

In Brevard County, more than 42,000 public school students—nearly 60% of the entire student population—come from low-income households that struggle to purchase the basic necessities. These families often have to choose between putting food on the table and buying luxuries like school supplies.

Starting a new school year with a backpack filled with supplies enables a child to begin school prepared and ready to learn. Every child deserves to have the basics, like pencils, folders, and paper, and our goal is to make that happen.

Brevard Schools Foundation will distribute free backpacks, school supplies, and other necessities at a giveaway event on Saturday, July 27, 2019. We are asking for your support for this annual event.

Whether you collect school supplies, make a financial contribution, or volunteer, your involvement can help us give children the tools they need to succeed in school and ultimately break that cycle of poverty.

Some Suggested Donations:

Backpacks (no wheels, please), #2 Pencils, Colored Pencils, Erasers, Pens (red, blue or black), Highlighters, Loose-leaf Notebook Paper

(wide and college ruled), Scissors, Glue (sticks and liquid), Pocket Folders, Composition Books, Crayons (24 ct.), Markers (washable) 3-Ring Binders, Rulers, Pencil Boxes/Pouches. **Cash contributions are welcome.** Please make check payable to Brevard Schools Foundation and mail to:

Brevard Schools Foundation
2700 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Viera, FL 32940

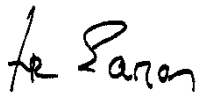
If you would like more information about this, contact Elizabeth Schreiber, Program Manager, at 321-633-3660 ext. 301.

Our outreach to these needy families will be much more effective if we have a few people to coordinate our efforts. If interested, contact me ASAP.

Departure for Uganda and Ireland next Sunday

Fr. Charles will be arriving from Malta this coming Friday. I leave on Sunday for my mission trip to Uganda with eight other parishioners. We will be travelling with Fr. Pat Sheedy and 20 of his parishioners. I will be in Uganda for one week and everyone else will stay for two weeks. I fly to Dublin via Istanbul on July 1, and return to the parish the end of July. Please pray for our *safety*. I will be praying for you.

Have a blessed week,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fr. Charles". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.