Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time — July 27, 2025

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

The Lord's Prayer, the "Our Father" has taken on an appropriate prominence during the celebration of Mass. One reason is that, thanks to the changes brought about by the Second Vatican Council, we all may say or sing this prayer in our own language. (It is hard to realize that previously in the so-called "Tridentine" Mass the priest alone said this prayer and he did so in Latin; no one was allowed to join him.) People offer this prayer while standing alert, sometimes extending their arms, sometimes raising their eyes toward heaven, sometimes joining hands with a neighbor, but always it seems with a special attention.

The version of the Lord's Prayer we hear in St. Luke's Gospel is slightly different from the one we use at Mass, which follows St. Matthew's version (Matthew 6: 9-12). We should not be surprised at the difference. For one thing, the prayer is so important that we may rightly presume that Jesus taught it on several occasions, and most likely not always in exactly the same words. For another, the prayer had been part of the liturgy for over a generation before any of the Gospels was written. The prayer was offered by memory, and consequently with slight variations, until St. Luke and St, Matthew wrote down the version in common use in their respective communities.

All of this leads to an important conclusion. What is new or special about the prayer is not the nature or number of the petitions within the prayer. After all, the Jews often prayed that God's name might be hallowed and that His will might be done. What is special about the prayer is the unique way in which Jesus addressed God. He called upon the Lord, the almighty, the creator of heaven and earth, the judge of the living and the dead as "Father."" And not exactly as "Father" but as "Abba", which means "Papa" or "Daddy." It was the way in which a little child, with intimate love and pure familiarity, addressed his or her parent. Of all the many words of Jesus which are recorded in the Gospels, surely "Abba" is among the most sacred. No ne had addressed God as "Abba" as "Dad," until Jesus did.

We are invited, actually we are told, to address God as "Abba", our loving father. The reason we can do so is that God has given us new life in company with Christ. It is the family life of the Blessed Trinity, the life we received at baptism when we were made members of the Church, God's family here on earth.

Whatever our posture or gestures may be during the Lord's prayer at mass we must realize how blessed we are to address God as Jesus did, to call him our "Abba."

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	**July 29**	**11:00AM**
Rocky Ty (Birthday)		Lolo & Lola
Wed.	**July 30**	**11:00AM**
Patricia Ann Roth†		Buenaflor-Roth Family
Thur.	**July 31**	**11:00AM**
Cariana & Andrew Rubang		Mom/Grandma Jose
Fri.	**August 1**	**11:00AM**
Robert B. Aker (healing)		Gina
Sat.	**August 2**	**4:30PM**
Sister Patricia Marie Thomas		Bill & Diane
Sun.	**August 3**	**9:00AM**
Marleana Airoldi†		Rita & Larry DeTomasi
Port Costa		**11:00AM**
People of our Parish		

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