

Thursday, June 17, 2021

Thursday of the Eleventh Week in Ordinary Time

Why do we introduce the “Our Father” with the words, “At the Savior’s command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say”? Certainly, we are in awe of Jesus and that He came among us and He has brought us this divine teaching, thus commanding us to pray to “Our Father”. First, it is a communal prayer (*Our* not *my*), and we dare to say it because we pray that we are in communion with our brothers and sisters of the parish. These are the key words that should explain why we “dare to say”: “If you forgive others their transgressions, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your transgressions.” Serious words and this entire Gospel passage for today’s Mass is the heart of the Sermon on the Mount; and indeed, the heart of Christianity. Jesus came to forgive our sins, our transgressions. Once we have experienced that great gift of mercy and forgiveness, how can we not forgive others?

God Love You!

*Fr. Jim Starasovich*

