

Parent Pages

Preparing the environment of the Domestic Church*

* The term "Domestic Church" refers to the family, the smallest body of gathered believers in Christ. Though recovered only recently, the term dates back to the first century AD. The Greek word ecclesiola referred to "little church." The early Church understood that the home was fertile ground for discipleship, sanctification, and holiness. Visit us at www.cgsusa.org

The Lord's Prayer

Sofia Cavalletti speaks about the Our Father...

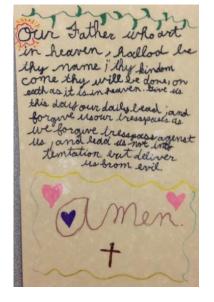
"Among the teachings of Jesus, the Our Father has a privileged place in our catechesis since it is also included in the content of the 3-6 Atrium. This is keeping with our rule, 'give the greatest things to the youngest children.' Thus, after pondering the great parables of the Kingdom with the youngest children we pray with them, 'your kingdom come' both in words and in song, but no more than that." (Level III CGS DVD)

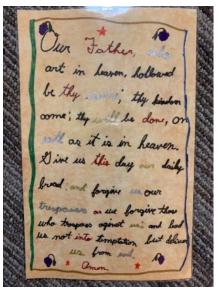
The Lord's Prayer is also lifted up in the Level II or the 6–9-year-old Atrium. When the apostles asked Jesus how they were to pray He shared these words of prayer with them. After hearing His words proclaimed from Scripture, the children are invited to place the lines of the Our Father in the order in which they are prayed. Often, the



children also enjoy copying them and praying them together in community. On the First Sacraments Retreat the children who have received the gift of this beautiful prayer are invited to prepare their own copy of the prayer and "return" this gift by praying it together with their families and Atrium community.









By beginning this prayer with "Our" Father we are acknowledging that we are all brothers and sisters through Jesus Christ. This prayer unites us beyond those in our families and parishes to all those who call God Father. There is so much that we proclaim and ask in this prayer as we raise one voice to our Father. It is with all this in mind that the oldest Atrium children (9-12 year olds) are invited to "enflesh" the Our Father through a Synthesis work. After ordering and talking through key phrases in the prayer, the children are invited to take time to find work in the Atrium that relates to a particular phrase or word. This type of Synthesis work allows the children to make connections and, hopefully, "own" this beautiful prayer in a new way. In one pondering of this work the children responded to the phrase, "Give us this day our daily bread," by initially saying that it meant, "Give us the things we need each day." However, they "enfleshed" this same phrase by surrounding it with images of both bread and Eucharist. One child brought the "Great Amen" card from the Synthesis of the Mass work to conclude the "Our Father," Laying it directly on top of the Greek spelling of "Parousia." In the included image it is possible to see a variety of connections made to the children's ongoing work in the Atrium including references to the Prophecies and Infancy Narratives, the Good Shepherd, the Kingdom. and Moral Parables, Salvation History, Baptism, and the Eucharist.

Prayer in the Home

- Praying the Lord's Prayer each day is a beautiful way to stand before God as a family, giving Him praise, thanks, and adoration while also asking for His help, forgiveness, and protection.
- Looking more deeply at just one line of the Our Father can offer a wealth of insight and help our hearts become enlivened and enflamed as we then come back and pray the entire prayer once more. At times, writing a line of prayer and then taking time in silence to illustrate it allows the Holy Spirit to speak deep in our hearts the truth He desires us to know.
- In the Lord's Prayer we pray for the coming of the Kingdom of God and, directly afterwards, for His will to be done. This longing for the fullness of the Kingdom of God and the desire to work with Him in preparing for the moment when God will be "all in all" involves seeking and knowing His will. As we pray today, let us invite Him to open our hearts to all that He has for us both now and for eternity.