LORD'S PRAYER

On June 19, **Father's Day**, we celebrate **fatherhood and male parenting** in recognition of the contribution that **fathers** and **father figures** make in the lives of their children. And, who, more than **God, our Father** does this? Let's look at the prayer that Jesus gave us allowing us to address God as **"Our Father".**

The **Our Father** is the best of all prayers because it is the **Lord's Prayer**, It is a prayer of **perfect** and **unselfish love** because in saying it, we offer **ourselves** entirely to God and ask from Him the **best things**, not only for ourselves but also for **our neighbor**.

We say:

"**Our Father who art in heaven**" – we **belong** to Him, our loving Father, who created us and watches over us,
"**hallowed be Thy name**" – God may be known and honored by everyone.
"**Thy kingdom come,**" – the kingdom of God's grace may be spread throughout the world,
"**Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven,**" – all may obey God on earth as willingly as the saints and angels obey Him in heaven.
"**Give us this day our daily bread,**" – God will give us each day all that is necessary to support the material life of our bodies and the spiritual life of our souls.
"**forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us,**" – God will pardon the sins by which we have offended Him, as we pardon all who have offended us.
"**and lead us not into temptation,**" – God will always give us the grace to overcome the temptations to sin.
"**but deliver us from evil,'** – God will always protect us from harm, and especially from harm to our souls.

Let us be grateful for those men who have "fathered" us in their role as mentors and guides and forgive those who have not. Let us pray for the men who are about to become fathers; may they openly **deligh**t in their children. And let us thank God for those fathers who have died but **live on** in our memory and whose love **continues** to nurture us.

Thank you, God, for our fathers and father images.

How are you doing with sending **kind thoughts** out to everyone you see???