

PASTORAL PRAYER

Feb. 10, 1963

Our Father, who art in heaven and on earth, how great thou art! We wonder about thee, we are amazed by thee, we worship thee.

We are grateful for the many blessings: the right to worship; family and home; rapid means of transportation and communication by which we can keep up with distant loved ones and friends; skilled medical people; other professional and research people who serve us; and for the host of volunteer workers in church and community organizations. Thou dost so much for us that we can never be thankful enough.

We still have problems, though, O God. Our problems seem very serious and burdensome to us, and some of them are indeed very much so. It is so easy to lose sight of others and of the world because we concentrate on our problems too much, because we worry about them. Help us to do what we can to solve them, but also to keep our eyes lifted to the affairs of people and society around us.

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We ask thee to remember and help those who are dear to us as they face perhaps the end of this life; as they are meeting temptations; as they wrestle with the meaning of life, even as we would do. We would pray that thou wouldst spare our dear ones from ~~the~~ meaninglessness and indifference ~~texttext~~ in life, even at the cost of great pain and effort. We pray that for ourselves, too.

Guide us in this service. Help each in his own way and according to his need to meditate and pray in such a way that he knows thou art real, that thou art here, that thou art with him.

We pray this, and ask forgiveness for the great omissions of our prayer. Hear us, ~~XXXXX~~ O merciful Father. In Jesus name. Amen

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Lead us, O merciful Father,  
in Jesus name. Amen