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December 7 Monday

CCC 2763 ... The Lord's Prayer is the most perfect of prayers.... In it we ask, not only for all the things we can rightly desire, but also in the sequence that they should be desired. This prayer not only teaches us to ask for things, but also in what order we should desire them.¹

December 8 Tuesday IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

CCC 491 ...The most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Savior of the human race, preserved immune from all stain of original sin.²

December 9 Wednesday

CCC 2766 But Jesus does not give us a formula to repeat mechanically.³ As in every vocal prayer, it is through the Word of God that the Holy Spirit teaches the children of God to pray to their Father. Jesus not only gives us the words of our filial prayer; at the same time he gives us the Spirit by whom these words become in us "spirit and life."⁴

December 10 Thursday

CCC 2779 ... Humility makes us recognize that "no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him," that is, "to little children."⁵

¹ St. Thomas Aquinas, STh II-II, 83, 9.

² Pius IX, Ineffabilis Deus (1854): DS 2803.

³ Cf. ⇒ Mt 6:7; ⇒ 1 Kings 18:26-29.

⁴ ⇒ Jn 6:63.

⁵ ⇒ Mt 11:25-27.

December 11 Friday

CCC 2781 When we pray to the Father, we are in communion with him and with his Son, Jesus Christ.⁶ Then we know and recognize him with an ever new sense of wonder. The first phrase of the Our Father is a blessing of adoration before it is a supplication. For it is the glory of God that we should recognize him as "Father," the true God. We give him thanks for having revealed his name to us, for the gift of believing in it, and for the indwelling of his Presence in us.

December 12 Saturday

CCC 2784 The free gift of adoption requires on our part continual conversion and new life. Praying to our Father should develop in us two fundamental dispositions:

First, the desire to become like him: though created in his image, we are restored to his likeness by grace; and we must respond to this grace. We must remember . . . and know that when we call God "our Father" we ought to behave as sons of God.⁷

December 13 Sunday

CCC 2785 Second, a humble and trusting heart that enables us "to turn and become like children":⁸ for it is to "little children" that the Father is revealed....⁹ Our Father: at this name love is aroused in us . . . and the confidence of obtaining what we are about to ask.... What would he not give to his children who ask, since he has already granted them the gift of being his children?¹⁰

⁶ Cf. ⇒ 1 Jn 1:3.

⁷ St. Cyprian, De Dom. orat. 11 PL 4:526B.

⁸ Mt 18:3

⁹ Cf. ⇒ Mt 11:25.

¹⁰ St. Augustine, De serm. Dom.in monte 2, 4, 16: PL 34, 1276.