

The Vows of Poverty, Chastity, and Obedience Hidden in the Our Father

Freedom is the ability to live out the words of Christ in His prayer commonly known as “The Our Father”. It is in the Our Father that our earthly passage to complete eternal freedom is outlined. I honestly believe that the only way to be completely free is the purposeful embracing of the evangelical counsels hidden within Christ’ prayer. The evangelical counsels are the vows taken by religious brothers, sisters, nuns, and priests. They are: 1. Poverty 2. Chastity 3. Obedience (obedience means “to listen”).

“Our Father who is in heaven, hallowed be thy name.” (I love God and He is my all.) “Thy kingdom come thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven”. (In heaven there is no marriage as we know it on earth. In heaven we are like the angels Matt. 22:30 this is the evangelical council: Chastity.) “Give us this day our daily bread” (evangelical counsel: “Poverty” that is acknowledging that I am fed by the hand of God daily. My air, my water, my rest, all are gifts from the Father enough for this moment, enough for today. Also, the Eucharist, the bread of life, is the resurrected food which sustains and nourishes the resurrected life, the eternal life, within us John 6:53.) “Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us”. (This speaks of the evangelical council: “obedience”. In “obedience” I “listen” to Christ within myself and Christ within all, even those who persecute me, I listen for any semblance and/or resemblance to the spark of life within all known as Christ. It is in listening that I preserve the source of this life with great care, carefully guarding the harmonious unity first known in the beginning of all creation as the “Holy Trinity”. ‘I (Christ) was formed long ages ago, at the very

beginning, when the world came to be' (Proverbs 8:23). And, 'In the beginning was the Word (Jesus), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God' John 1:1). And "lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil" (i.e. 'the love of money is the root of all evil' 1 Tim 6:10 is further encouragement for embracing the evangelical counsel "poverty". I trust God not goods. I want to be completely free.)

I heard that a Saint said in regard to various prayers and formulas, "After the Our Father everything else is a play on words."