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Center for Spiritual Development

Daily Reflections

Image by Christine Sponchia

LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY

By Sr. Katherine (Kit) Gray, CSJ

Today's Gospel

*Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he had finished,
one of his disciples said to him,
"Lord, teach us to pray just as John taught his disciples."*

*He said to them, "When you pray, say:
Father, hallowed be your name,
your Kingdom come.
Give us each day our daily bread
and forgive us our sins
for we ourselves forgive everyone in debt to us,
and do not subject us to the final test."*

LUKE 11: 1-4

Reflection

Today's reading about Jesus teaching the disciples to pray reminded me about visiting the Pater Noster Church located on the Mount of Olives outside Jerusalem, where the Our Father is written in 140 languages.

That got me thinking about language and words.

It is estimated that there are 7000 spoken languages and 300 written language systems in the world.

Today, you and I are reading the Our Father from Luke's Gospel in English translated from Greek; and Jesus spoke in a Galilean dialect of Arabic.

What has been gained and lost in those translations?



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For Pondering

- In what language did you first learn to pray the Our Father?
 - What language do you prefer for praying the Our Father?
 - What are words or phrases in the Our Father that are particularly meaningful for you?
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For Prayer

Two Adaptations of the Our Father

*Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echoes through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your beloved community of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.*

*In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever.
Amen.*

ADAPTED FROM THE NEW ZEALAND BOOK OF PRAYER | HE KARAKIA MIHINARIE O AOTEAROA. This version of the Lord's prayer was influenced by Māori theologians.

*Our Father who are in the depths
of my heart,
transforming its emptiness
into a heaven on earth*

*Hallowed be thy name, even in the
death-like silence
of my ignorance
and my lack of faith*

*Thy kingdom come
in the midst of my desolation*

*Thy will be done in me,
for thy will is my true life*

Give us this day our daily bread,

*for I am utterly dependent
upon thy divine providence*

*Forgive us our trespasses – those sins that are ultimately treason against thy
love for us, and therefore treason against myself*

*Deliver us from evil – from the evil
of centering our lives
upon ourselves,
in order that we may learn
that thou art the center of all
and that only in thee
can we find freedom
worthy of the sons and daughters of God.”*

KARL RAHNER

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