**Our Father in heaven**

**TUESDAY FEBRUARY 23 (Mt 6, 7-15)**

God, the Lord, the Eternal, the Almighty, the Creator, is announced by the prophets as the true Father for his people. He is the Father to whom the cry is raised to come down and give salvation. It is the Father who loves because he is rich in mercy and piety. It is the Father who knows how to hear the cry of his children: *“The favors of the LORD I will recall, the glorious deeds of the LORD, Because of all he has done for us; for he is good to the house of Israel, He has favored us according to his mercy and his great kindness. He said: They are indeed my people, children who are not disloyal; So he became their savior* *in their every affliction. It was not a messenger or an angel, but he himself who saved them. Because of his love and pity he redeemed them himself, Lifting them and carrying them all the days of old. But they rebelled, and grieved his holy spirit; So he turned on them like an enemy, and fought against them. Then they remembered the days of old and Moses, his servant; Where is he who brought up out of the sea the shepherd of his flock? Where is he who put his holy spirit in their midst; Whose glorious arm was the guide at Moses' right; Who divided the waters before them, winning for himself eternal renown; Who led them without stumbling through the depths like horses in the open country, Like cattle going down into the plain, the spirit of the LORD guiding them? Thus you led your people, bringing glory to your name.*

*Look down from heaven and regard us from your holy and glorious palace! Where is your zealous care and your might, your surge of pity and your mercy? O Lord, hold not back, for you are our father. Were Abraham not to know us, nor Israel to acknowledge us, You, LORD, are our father, our redeemer you are named forever. Why do you let us wander, O LORD, from your ways, and harden our hearts so that we fear you not? Return for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your heritage. Why have the wicked invaded your holy place, why have our enemies trampled your sanctuary? Too long have we been like those you do not rule, who do not bear your name. Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, with the mountains quaking before you." ( Is 64, 7-19).*Jesus teaches us to call upon our God as our Father. Prayer must be raised to him with only one desire, one will: that His name be sanctified, that His kingdom come, that His will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. May He be our daily providence, may He forgives our sins, may He not abandon us in the hour of temptation, may H free us from evil. All that is needed by man so that he can walk on earth towards the eternal kingdom must be asked of the Father. What must those who pray do, one thing: to be rich, without measure, in granting forgiveness to their debtors. If they forgive, they will be forgiven, they will be listened to by the Father in their every request. Everything is a gift of God and everything must be asked of him.

*In praying, do not babble like the pagans, who think that they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them. Your Father knows what you need before you ask him. "This is how you are to pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and do not subject us to the final test, but deliver us from the evil one. If you forgive others their transgressions, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your transgressions.*

However, there is a substantial difference between God the Father in the Old Testament and God the Father in the New. Before God was Father by election. Now God is Father by generation of water and the Holy Spirit and by participation of the divine nature. It substantially changes the nature of the Father and his essence for us. Another truth. The Christian is a son of God in his Son Christ Jesus. Being sons in His Son, we are no longer children for the Father, but we are only one son that he must give for the salvation of the world.

Mother of the Redemption, Angels, Saints, make Christians true children of the Father.