

*Series on the Mass, Part 58: The Pater Noster, conclusion*

April 18, 2021

“And lead us not into temptation”

This sixth petition of the Our Father helps to keep us humble and to recognize that we are weak sinners. Having received pardon for our sins, we must now try to avoid the dangers of a relapse by avoiding the occasions of sin. We should keep in mind St. Peter’s warning: “it had been better for them not to have known the way of justice, than, after they have known it, to turn back from that holy commandment which was delivered to them” (1 Pet 2:21).

Our Lord is aware of our frailty and our need for His divine assistance, and so He has us pray not to be lead into temptation. We have to do our part in corresponding to the graces that He gives us. We cannot pray not to be lead into temptation, then run headlong into occasions of sin and expect to be able to conquer. We must use the rightly formed conscience to avoid occasions of sin and when we are nevertheless confronted with a temptation, God will give us the grace to conquer.

The Council of Trent reminds us that “Satan is overcome not by indolence, sleep, wine, reveling, or lust; but by prayer, labor, watching, fasting, continence and chastity.” Our Lord tells us to be watchful and pray, lest we enter into temptation (Matt 26:41). If we make use of the appropriate weapons in the conflict and we resist Satan through our faithful prayers and sacrifices, we can put the enemy to flight.

Sincerely in Christ,

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