



*Fr. Fred Liccio*

Dear Friends,

One of the books in my library which has brought me many good thoughts and prayerful moments over the years is *Taking Flight -- A Book of Story Meditations* by Fr. Anthony de Mello, SJ. In this book he recalls many stories and tales and reflections taken from his Indian heritage. One that I have found particularly wonderful is a Hasidic tale:

*Late one evening a poor farmer on his way back from the market found himself without his prayer book. The wheel of his cart had come off right in the middle of the woods and it distressed him that this day should pass without his having said his prayers.*

*So this is the prayer he made:*

*"I have done something very foolish, Lord.*

*I came away from home this morning without my prayer book and my memory is such that I cannot recite a single prayer without it.*

*So this is what I am going to do: I shall recite the alphabet five times very slowly and you, to whom all prayers are known, can put the letters together to form the prayers I can't remember."*

*And the Lord said to the angels,*

*"Of all the prayers I have heard today, this one was undoubtedly the best*

*because it came from a heart that was simple and sincere."*

May our prayers this day be as simple and sincere, and may the blessings of the Lord come upon each of us!

Father Fred