

Sermon Summary
6th after Pentecost
24 July 2011

- Romans 8 is a sublime passage of hope in the middle of a letter which contains some of the most complex (Rom 9-11) and troubling (Rom 13:1-7) passages of Scripture.
- Paul reminds us that nothing else can separate us from the love of God. Only our walking away can remove us from God's love. Nothing else can separate us from God. He reminds us that we can depend on his love.
- Paul reminds us that we have the gift of the Spirit which means that we may pray when we do not know the answers: because the Spirit will intercede for us, in a way that is beyond words. We have the confidence that we may pray effectively even when we do not know what to pray for, because the Spirit will pray through us
- Paul reminds us that we have the Spirit simply because we call God "Father". Not for him major spiritual demands or a bar set high. Its accessible to all.
- We can do much worse, when we do not know what to pray for, than pray the "Our Father".
- In fact, we can really do well to make it a rule of Life to pray the "Our Father" frequently, for this will have the effect of changing how we look at and relate to the world in which we live. Words transform- and these words transform us to follow God's will.
- Rather than chase after meditational techniques or mystical heights, we sometimes need to remind ourselves that this prayer is the "iron rations" of the spiritual life.

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