

PASTORAL PRAYER: June 29, 1997

O GOD, OUR FATHER....we thank YOU for the freshness of this summer Sunday,
and for all that it means to us in the way of inspiration,
reassurance, forgiveness and perspective.

WE ARE THANKFUL for the devoted hearts that gather here from Sunday
to Sunday to worship YOU...to hear YOUR Word, to try
to follow in the footsteps of Jesus, to sing in the
choir, to teach a Sunday School Class of children,
to usher in your house....

WE ARE THANKFUL, too, for the many blessings that have touched and
warmed our individual lives at so many times and at
so many places....our homes, our loved ones, our
Church, and all of the joys of friendship and fellowship
that we share together in this place.

OUR LIVES ARE FILLED with gratitude for the lift that we receive from
sharing in the wonders of YOUR handiwork...

The warmth of the sun,
The shade of trees,
The green of the grass,
The grandeur of the seas,
The majesty of the mountains.

IN THIS HOUR OF WORSHIP, we would turn aside from the pains and problems that
have been troubling us, and here in the silence of
YOUR sanctuary rest our tense and worried spirits in
that love that rests at the heart of all life, that
love that will never let us down nor let us go!

HERE, WE WOULD SEEK to gain a new insight,
to see life from higher ground,
to see YOU at the heart of all things.

AND HERE WE WOULD PRAY, too - not only for ourselves, but also for our
fellow man -

For the less fortunate - the poor, the hungry, the
distressed, the bereaved, the suffering.

Forgive us our sins, and keep us calm within. Speak to each
of us the word we need to hear...the word of peace, of
love, of patience.

TO THY GUIDANCE, we commit ourselves - our Church, our nation, our world. Do
with us as THOU wilt. In the name of the Good Shepherd who
knows his sheep by name and who gently calls them to HIMSELF.
In Christ's spirit we pray.