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J.M.J.

## OUR FATHER PARAPHRASED FOR THE SICK.

—*Vennewald's Book for the Sick*



**Our Father, Who art in heaven.**

—O God, my Father and Father of all men! How sweet and consoling it is for me to be allowed to call Thee Father, now that pain and sickness encompass me! This illness indeed is a chastisement, but Thou lovest me and intendest to promote my eternal salvation thereby, because Thou art my Father. Thou art in heaven, but art also on earth and with me. Thou seest and knowest all my sufferings; Thou dost not allow me to suffer without necessity nor to call for help in vain, for Thou art my Father.

This must be my consolation and my encouragement.

**Hallowed be Thy name.**

—My Father, Thy name will I extol for all the graces Thou hast bestowed upon me; I will glorify it by my constancy in suffering, and by patiently offering my illness for Thy greater honor. Let Thy name be praised and extolled when I suffer; let Thy

name be praised and extolled when I die and enter into eternity. The name of the Lord be praised now and forever.

**Thy kingdom come.**

—Let Thy kingdom, the kingdom of Thy grace, come. Reign, O my God, in my heart through Thy love, and, the battle being ended, receive me into the kingdom of Thy glory, where Thou hast prepared unspeakable bliss for those who love Thee. Lord, give me strength, that I may persevere unto the end and then come to Thee.

**Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

—It is Thy will, O my Father, that I am now ill and suffer; let it be done in me, for Thy will is at all times holy, just, wise and good, although we may not understand it. Thy will be done in me.

I submit to it with perfect obedience, willingly accepting from Thy hand the bitter chalice of suffering. Father, whether I

live, or suffer or die,  
let Thy will be done in me!

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

—Until now, Thou hast given me, besides the daily sustenance, innumerable graces and benefits, for which I return Thee thanks and beg Thee to forgive me every misuse of Thy gifts. Give me also, O my God, for the rest of my life what is needful to me.

But above all, give the necessary nourishment to my immortal soul: the teaching of Thy Word, the consolation of Thy holy religion, the food of the most holy body and blood of Jesus Christ, and the grace for obtaining life eternal.

**Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

—Alas, O my God, great and oppressive is the weight of my sins! Through the merits of Jesus Christ, through the blood He has shed for me, I beseech Thee, blot them out, and forgive me.

With David the Prophet do I implore Thee:

"Remember Thou not the sins of my youth; from my hidden iniquities purify me, and from the sins of others preserve me."

Forgive also, O Lord, my daily shortcomings, my want of patience, my despondency in this my illness and all my other faults. From the bottom of my heart do I pardon all those who have ever offended me; I pardon them as I wish that Thou shouldst pardon me.

**And lead us not into temptation.**

—Lord, do not permit temptation to be too great for me. If Thou wilt try me still longer and chastise me by sickness and pain, preserve me also from murmuring and impatience, from pusillanimity and despair; give me the grace to come off victorious in the trial and to persevere. Let me not sink under the heavy burden of my sufferings and pains, but grant that, strengthened by Thee, I may

bear them with patience and resignation. Above all, O my God, do not permit me to be overcome in my death-agony, in the last decisive conflict.

**But deliver us from evil. Amen.**

—O God, if it is Thy holy will and beneficial to me, deliver me from the pains of illness, that evil which has oppressed me so long. Yet, the greatest, the only true evil is sin and an ungodly death. Merciful God, preserve me from it. Both in life and in death maintain me in Thy grace and love. Amen.

