

Writing Prayers of Petition

1. Remind the children of the distinction between prayers of petition and prayers of intercession, such as those we pray at Mass. Prayers of petition are for blessings they themselves hope to receive from God; prayers of intercession are prayers for the needs of others.
2. Ask the children to create a personal prayer of petition asking God for the gifts they hope to receive from him that will make them better disciples.
3. Ask them to use this format:
 - a. WHO: A sentence addressing God and praising him for blessings they have already received.
 - b. DO: One or two sentences asking for what they hope God will do for them.
 - c. THROUGH: A sentence acknowledging that all our prayers to God come through Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit.
4. Tell the children to fold the papers with their prayers on them. During your prayer service, invite the children to process to the prayer table and place their prayers in a basket on the prayer table.
5. Stand in a circle around the prayer table and pray the Our Father together. Remind them that this prayer expresses our conviction that God is the source of all our blessings. Then place your hand on each child's head and say, "May God bless you, _____ . May God, our Father, answer your prayer."

