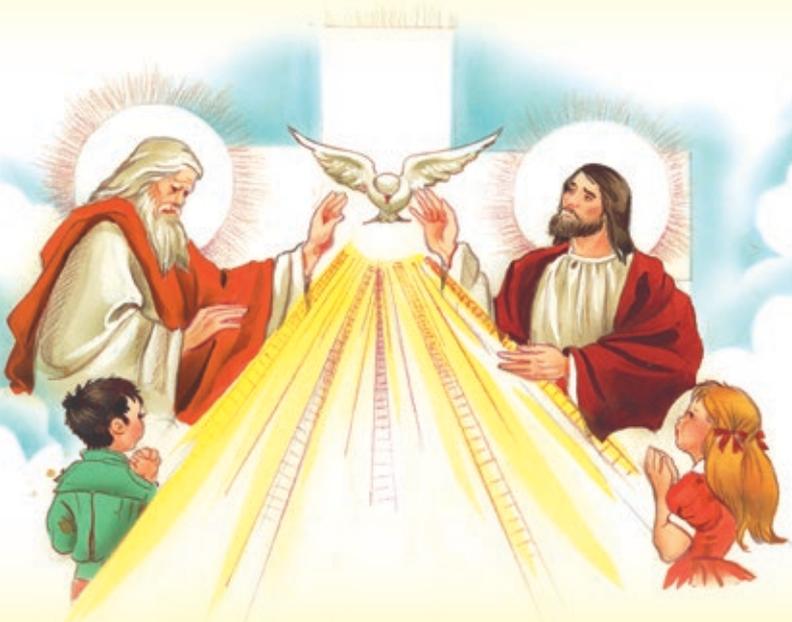


God the Father



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Printed in China ISBN 978-0-89942-514-6 www.catholicbookpublishing.com

CPSIA May 2017 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 L/P

ELIJAH AND MOUNT CARMEL

ONE of God's great Prophets was Elijah. He lived at a time when the people of Israel were not always faithful to the Lord God.

One day Elijah challenged the pagan prophets and priests to a contest to see which god was the true God. They sacrificed animals upon an altar to their gods. The priests and Prophets of Israel then prayed to their God to send fire to consume their sacrifice, but nothing happened.

Elijah then prayed to Yahweh to send fire from the sky so that all would know that Yahweh was the only God. Fire immediately came from the sky and consumed the sacrifice. All the people then knew that Yahweh was the only God Who existed.

Another time Elijah climbed up Mount Sinai to meet the Lord. That is where Moses had met God in signs of fire and wind and earthquake. But this time God appeared to Elijah in a simple, gentle way. He did not appear in fire or wind or earthquake, but rather in a gentle breeze.

The meaning of this was that God does not always appear with great signs. Sometimes God reveals His love for us through everyday events and the people around us.

THE OUR FATHER

ONE day the disciples were listening to Jesus teach, and when He had finished they asked Him a favor. They had heard all sorts of prayers, and they wanted Jesus to teach them a special prayer that God would really like.

Jesus taught them that we should all call God our Father because He loves us as His very own children.

He then taught the disciples and us to pray to God, our Father, as follows:

OUR Father,
Who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy Name.
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

