

**Wanting God's Will**      Fourth Week of Easter      Saturday, May 18, 2019      Acts  
13:44-52;    Jn 14:7-14    (St. John I, pope and martyr)    (Now the prayer is that that same will  
be done on earth through the willful, deliberate, voluntary compliance of human creatures, who  
want now nothing more than the will of God, who want nothing more than the kingdom of God to  
come.)

**“If you ask anything of me in my name, I will do it.”**

This has been very misinterpreted over the history of Christianity because some people take it as a kind of promise. It is not a promise; it is **a statement of fact**. To ask anything in the name of Jesus does not mean saying the name of Jesus. **It means being in the name of Jesus. It means being in the Son of God, being in the Word of God, being united to the Word of God just as the Word of God is united to the Father.** This is all about the unity of God and the unity of creation and, therefore, **the unity of the Church as the body of Christ.**

I mentioned yesterday in God one God subsists in three divine persons. How many wills are there in God? One, this is very important to remember. There are not three wills in God; **there is one divine will.** In the body of Christ there are countless members, all baptized into Christ; **there is one will in the body of Christ, the will of the head who is Christ, which is the same as the will of the Father. When we abide in the name of Jesus we are completely united to the will of which there is only one, and therefore of course “I will do it.” God always does his will.** God's will is not influenced by us. That is not the role or the purpose of prayer to change God's will. This is a vast mistake people have made.

Now **God wills the good of all, and so when we pray opening ourselves to the blessings that God wants to give, that is very fruitful and efficacious. But it doesn't change God.** He hasn't decided, well, since they are praying, I think I will answer their prayer. No, that is a childish way to think, and literally childish because one is thinking like a child. If I ask Mommy if I can do

this and she says no, but if I keep begging her, maybe she will let me do it because she will be sick and tired of my begging. That's how some people pray. But that's not prayer.

**Prayer is to enter into the name, to become one with the head of the body into which we have been baptized.** This is why Jesus taught his disciples to pray: “thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” In heaven, that means in the unity of God, the will of God is always done. **Now the prayer is that that same will be done on earth through the willful, deliberate, voluntary compliance of human creatures, who want now nothing more than the will of God, who want nothing more than the kingdom of God to come.** That is the key to understanding the transformation of the creation. **It is our conversion, not God's conversion.** We are not praying to God to listen to us and do what we want. That is completely vain. We pray that we will change and do what God wants, and in doing what God wants and speaking what God wants, that will happen. And we pray, as St. Augustine says, so that we will be open to receive what God wants to give us.