



Prayer of Good Gifts

What father among you would hand his son a snake when he asks for a fish? Or hand him a scorpion when he asks for an egg? If you then, who are wicked, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the Father in Heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?'

— Luke 11:11-13

Father of all, we beg you, look upon us now.
Look upon us in our time of confession.

Our children ask us for refuge;
We give them fences.
Our children ask us for protection,
for a safe place to play;
We give them the crossfires of our conflicts.
Our children ask us for the bread that is so
plentiful;
We give them a world that instead rains
down armaments upon them.
Our children ask us for opportunity
to grow and follow their dreams,
And we give them a world
that turns them into soldiers,
exploited and damaged, robbed of their
youth.

Our children ask for hope, a meaningful future,
And we allow them to live in a world of
forced labor
that turns them into commodities for the
present.

Our children ask us to recognize them,
to recognize their pain,
to recognize their vulnerability,
to recognize that they are indeed ours.
We have turned away.

Our children ask for education;
And this cruelty is the education we
offer.

Teach us to see them, O Lord, as you see us.
Teach us to look upon them with grace and
compassion—
as you look upon us.
Teach us to reach out to them with a spirit of
protection—
as you reach out to us.
Teach us to sacrifice for the love of them—
as you sacrificed all for us.

Give us hearts to respond as you respond:

*O, my precious child, you do not have to
ask.
All that is mine is yours*

Amen