

The Words Our Savior Gave Us, by Daniel Berrigan (Templegate, 1978).

Fr. Daniel Berrigan, S.J., is well known as a vocal activist against nuclear armaments, the war in Vietnam, and American militarism in general. His religious writings are perhaps less well known. This particular book is not even listed in the Wikipedia entry for Daniel Berrigan.

And yet, *The Words Our Savior Gave Us* is well worth reading. In fact, future generations of spiritual seekers may rank it as one of his most moving testimonies to life as a follower of Jesus Christ. As Berrigan reflects on each phrase of the Lord's Prayer, his voice is passionate, poetic, vibrant and full of conviction. At every turn of the page, readers will find him speaking with urgency, piling image upon image like a prophet in ancient Israel.

Here is a sample from the chapter, "Hallowed be Your Name" --

...While we might wish to emulate the "perfect detachment" of the mystics (who are in fact neither perfect nor detached) and dwell on the eternal aspect of the divine, it would seem that Jesus invites us in another direct. Else why a prayer that presumably fell from human lips, on a certain day, in a given corner of our world? A prayer that moreover, is incurably worldly, concrete, dwelling in time and place? The hallowing of the name o God has therefore this aspect: a working out, an experience, a passion, a knot-hole of diminution and death, a rebirth to be undergone...

This book and many others can be borrowed from the Lending Library of Contemplative Outreach in St. Louis. The library is located in the Grace Episcopal Church, 514 E. Argonne Drive, Kirkwood, MO 63122. You will find it in the **Prayer** section of the shelves. Check it out!