INTRODUCTION TO PRAYER

(The information on this outline can be found primarily in paragraphs 2558 – 2865 of the Catechism of the Catholic Church)

SECTION ONE: PRAYER IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

What is Prayer? (CCC 2559-2565)
A. According to the saints…
B. Prayer as God’s gift
C. Prayer as covenant
D. Prayer as communion

I. The Revelation of Prayer (CCC 2566-2649)
The Universal Call to Prayer
A. In the Old Testament
   1. Creation-source of prayer
   2. God’s promise and the prayer of faith
   3. Moses and the prayer of the mediator
   4. David and the prayer of the king
   5. Elijah, the prophets and conversion of heart
   6. The Psalms, the prayer of the assembly
B. In the Fullness of Time
   1. Jesus prays
   2. Jesus teaches us how to pray
   3. Jesus hears our prayer
   4. The prayer of the Virgin Mary
C. In the Age of the Church
   1. Blessings and Adoration
   2. Prayer of Petition
   3. Prayer of Intercession
   4. Prayer of Thanksgiving
   5. Prayer of Praise

II. The Tradition of Prayer
A. At the Wellspring of Prayer
   1. The Word of God
   2. The Liturgy of the Church
   3. The theological virtues
   4. “Today”
B. The Way of Prayer
   1. Prayer to the Father
   2. Prayer to Jesus
   3. “Come, Holy Spirit”
   4. In communion with the holy Mother of God
C. Guides for Prayer
   1. A cloud of witnesses
   2. Servants of prayer
   3. Places favorable for prayer

III. The Life of Prayer
   A. Expressions of Prayer
      1. Vocal Prayer
      2. Meditation
      3. Contemplative Prayer
   B. The Battle of Prayer
      1. Objections to Prayer
         a. Erroneous notions of prayer
         b. Mistaken attitudes
         c. Failure in prayer
      2. Humble Vigilance of Heart
         a. Facing difficulties in prayer
         b. Facing temptations in prayer
      3. Filial Trust
         a. Why do we complain of not being heard?
         b. How is our prayer efficacious?
      4. Persevering in Love
         a. The battle of prayer is that of humble, trusting, and persevering love
         b. Always possible to pray
         c. Prayer is a vital necessity
         d. Prayer and Christian life are inseparable
   C. The Prayer of the Hour of Jesus

SECTION TWO: THE LORD’S PRAYER: “OUR FATHER!”

IV. “The Summary of the Whole Gospel”
   A. At the Center of the Scriptures
   B. “The Lord’s Prayer”
   C. The Prayer of the Church

V. “Our Father Who Art in Heaven”
   A. “We Dare to Say”
   B. “Father!”
   C. “Our” Father
   D. “Who Art in Heaven”

VI. The Seven Petitions
   A. “Hallowed Be Thy Name”
   B. “Thy Kingdom Come”
   C. “Thy Will Be Done on Earth as It Is in Heaven”
   D. “Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread”
E. “And Forgive Us Our Trespasses, as We Forgive Those Who Trespass Against Us”
   1. And forgive us our trespasses…
   2. …as we forgive those who trespass against us
F. “And Lead Us Not into Temptation”
G. “But Deliver Us from Evil”

VII. The Final Doxology

VIII. The Liturgy of the Hours