

A spiritual note from Father René Aucourt

Imagine a wedding celebration this summer... a couple who had prepared well, a beautiful, friendly, and caring congregation. The time came to say the Lord's Prayer. I introduced the prayer, as celebrant, very freely inviting everyone to pray it... if you know it, if you wish... I began and saw a nine-year-old child, in the front row, raise his hands and say it out loud. He was absolutely the only one in the entire congregation (along with me, of course...). He continued imperturbably until the end. I saw his cousins watching him, and especially his grandmother, who was very surprised.

Most of the time, we think of the transmission of faith in terms of grandparents leading their grandchildren: the elders in charge of expressing and demonstrating the importance of their faith. Here, the pattern is completely reversed. It was the nine-year-old grandson who was expressing his childhood faith and was even proud to do so. A powerful intergenerational moment.

Shouldn't we stop thinking about transmission, which only goes one way? As Saint Paul says, we certainly carry within us an inestimable treasure, and it's perfectly normal for us to have a deep desire to share it, but we must never forget that others also have a treasure to share, and that I must always be enriched by this sharing. This is the condition for true encounter.