

Dear Padre,

Is it a sin to use God's name in profanity?

Profanity is obscene, vulgar language that may or may not include God's name. People may thoughtlessly ask God to condemn a person or a thing in their profanity, but if questioned, admit that they did not mean it literally. They say their angry words were not intended to deliberately ask God to harm someone and deliberate intent is one requirement for what constitutes a sin. God who knows our hearts can determine if our misuse of his name is a form of venting, but the Second Commandment warns us that taking the Lord's name in vain does not please him, even if no harm to another is intended. The danger in constantly and carelessly using God's holy name profanely is that over time we can easily become desensitized to the practice, creating an irreverent attitude toward God that is offensive and may lead others into sin.

Recall that when we pray, "Hallowed be thy name" in the Lord's Prayer—the prayer Jesus taught his disciples—we ask God to enable us to give him the reverence that is due; it comes first before we ask anything for ourselves—a sure sign of our respect for God.

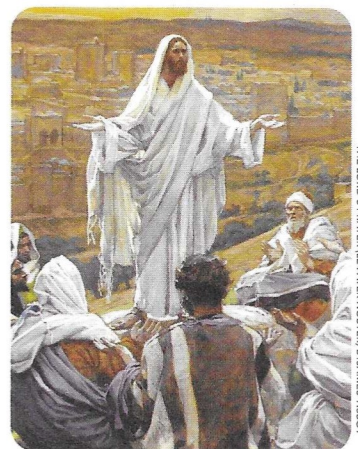
Because God's name is holy, we mustn't abuse it. Despite the erosion of inhibitions against poor word choices in our time, consider this prayerful petition from the last verse of Psalm 19: "Let the words of my mouth be acceptable, / the thoughts of my heart before you, / LORD, my rock and my redeemer."

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
May 20	May 21	May 22	May 23	May 24	May 25	May 26
Blessed Virgin	Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	Most Holy Trinity
Mary, Mother of the Church	Jas 4:1-10	Jas 4:13-17	Jas 5:1-6	Jas 5:9-12	Jas 5:13-20	Dt 4:32-34,
Gn 3:9-15, 20 or	Mk 9:30-37	Mk 9:38-40	Mk 9:41-50	Mk 10:1-12	Mk 10:13-16	39-40
Acts 1:12-14						Rom 8:14-17
Jn 19:25-34						Mt 28:16-20



THE LORD'S PRAYER (LE PATER NOSTER) BY JAMES TISSOT



CATHOLIC NEWS AGENCY

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

This is how the word of God describes the working of the Spirit: first he rests on each and then brings all of them together in fellowship....In other words, the same Spirit creates diversity and unity, and in this way forms a new, diverse and unified people: the universal Church.

HOMILY, ROME, JUNE 4, 2017