

Pray as you can, not as you can't:

Three Russian monks lived on a faraway island. Nobody ever went there, but one day their bishop decided to make a pastoral visit. When he arrived, he discovered that the monks didn't even know the Lord's Prayer. So he spent all his time and energy teaching them the "Our Father who art in....." and then left, satisfied with his pastoral work.

But when his ship had left the island and was back on the open sea, he suddenly noticed the three hermits walking on the water - in fact they were running after the ship !

When they reached it, they cried, "Dear Father, we've forgotten the Lord's prayer you taught us."

The bishop, overwhelmed by what he was seeing and hearing, said, "Well then dear brothers, how do you pray?"

They answered, "Well we just say, 'Dear God, there are three of us and there are three of you, have mercy on us!' "

The bishop, awestruck by their sanctity and simplicity, said, "Go back to your land and be at peace."