

***God the Father  
vs. the Godfather***

Too often we look upon  
God the Father  
as if He were  
the Godfather.

The Godfather  
makes us an offer  
we can't refuse;  
God the Father  
refuses to force us.

The Godfather's request  
is a threat;  
the offer of God the Father  
is a gift.

The power of the Godfather  
lies in punishment;  
the power of God the Father  
is that of persuasion.

When we do wrong,  
the Godfather is out to get you;  
but God the Father is for you.

The Godfather is obsessed  
with revenge;  
God the Father looks for  
repentance.

To cross the Godfather  
spells suicide;  
the cross of the Father's Son  
stands for salvation.

If, therefore, you regard  
the Almighty with fear  
and serve Him out of compulsion,  
you are worshipping a Godfather.

When, however, your religion  
is filled with confidence  
and your service stems from love,  
then your God is a Father.

© *Msgr. Walter Niebrzydowski*  
June 20, 1985

[Fr-Walter@nyc.rr.com](mailto:Fr-Walter@nyc.rr.com)

[www.fatherwaltersparish.org](http://www.fatherwaltersparish.org)