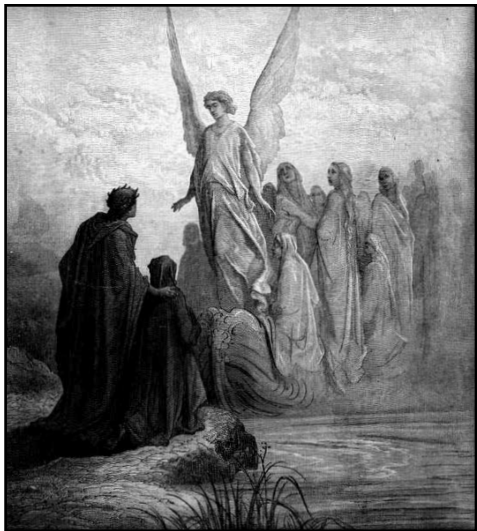


Manual of the Purgatorian Society



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Manual of the Purgatorian Society

**Containing Spiritual Reading and
Prayers for Every Day of the Month
Also the Ordinary Prayers
of a Pious Catholic**

Approbation

The little work "Manual of the Purgatorian Society" has for years been a source of spiritual help to the faithful, as well as a means of fostering devotion to the holy Souls in Purgatory. For that reason we hereby approve of its continued publication for the benefit especially of members of the Purgatorian Society.

JOHN SEPHTON, C.S.S.R.
Provincial.

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JOHN M. A. FEARNES, S.T.D.,
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DEVOTION TO THE HOLY SOULS IN PURGATORY.

(By St. Alphonsus Liguori.)

“The practice of recommending to God the souls in Purgatory, that He may mitigate the great pains which they suffer, and that He may soon bring them to His glory, is most pleasing to the Lord and most profitable to us. For these blessed souls are His eternal spouses, and most grateful are they to those who obtain their deliverance from prison, or even a mitigation of their torments. When, therefore, they arrive in Heaven, they will be sure to remember all who have prayed for them. It is a pious belief

that God manifests to them our prayers in their behalf, that they may also pray for us. It is true these blessed souls are not in a state to pray for themselves, because they are, so to speak, criminals atoning for their faults. However, because they are very dear to God, they can pray for us, and obtain for us the divine graces. St. Catherine of Bologna, when she wished to obtain any grace, had recourse to the souls in Purgatory, and her prayers were heard immediately. She declared that, by praying to those holy souls, she obtained many favors which she had sought through the intercession of the saints without obtaining them. The graces which devout persons are said to have received through these holy souls are innumerable.

But, if we wish for the aid of their prayers, it is just, it is even a duty, to relieve them by our suffrages. I say, *it is even a duty*: for Christian charity commands us to relieve our

neighbors who stand in need of our assistance. But who among all our neighbors have so great need of our help as those holy prisoners? They are continually in that fire which torments more severely than any earthly fire. They are deprived of the sight of God, a torment far more excruciating than all other pains. Let us reflect that among these suffering souls are parents, or brothers, or relations and friends, who look to us for succor. Let us remember, moreover, that being in the condition of debtors for their sins, they cannot assist themselves. This thought should urge us forward to relieve them to the best of our ability. By assisting them we shall not only give great pleasure to God, but will acquire also great merit for ourselves. And, in return for our suffrages, these blessed souls will not neglect to obtain for us many graces from God, but particularly the grace of eternal life. I hold for

certain that a soul delivered from Purgatory by the suffrages of a Christian, when she enters paradise, will not fail to say to God: "Lord, do not suffer to be lost that person who has liberated me from the prison of Purgatory, and has brought me to the enjoyment of Thy glory sooner than I had deserved."

The holy doctor then goes on to urge the faithful to do all in their power to relieve and liberate these blessed souls, by procuring Masses to be said for them, by alms, and by their own fervent prayers.

This little "Manual" will no doubt be welcomed by the members of the Purgatorian Society and other pious friends of the suffering souls in Purgatory.

*Indulged Prayers to Aid the
Suffering Souls.*

NOTE: All the following indulgences are taken from the latest official book of indulgences—*Preces et Pia Opera*, Vatican Polyglot Press, 1938.

Indulgences attached to invocations and ejaculatory prayers can be gained by saying them merely in one's mind. (AAS. Vol. XXVI. p. 35).

A star (*) before a prayer signifies that if one says this prayer daily for a month he may gain a plenary indulgence, if, any time after completing the prescribed works he receives the Sacraments of Penance and Holy Communion, visits a church and there prays for the intention of the Holy Father.

When *Confession* and *Holy Communion* are prescribed for the gaining of an indulgence, those who are accustomed, unless lawfully hindered, to go to Confession at least *twice a month*, or to receive Holy Communion daily (though they may stay away one or two days during the week), may gain all indulgences, without actual confession, which would otherwise be

2 Prayers for the Holy Souls

necessary to gain them—except the indulgences of a jubilee. (Can. 931, Sec. 3.)

To pray for the *intention of the Holy Father* it is sufficient to recite *one* Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory be to the Father.

To gain a plenary indulgence "Toties Quoties," *e. g.*, the *Portiuncula* or on *All Souls' Day*, for which a visit to the church is prescribed, you must say at least *six times* the Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory be to the Father for each visit. (Can. 934, Sec. 1, a b.)

To gain such an indulgence the *visits* may be made from noon of the preceding day till night of the specified day. (Can. 923.)

All the indulgences are *applicable* to the Souls in Purgatory. (Can. 930.)

FIRST DAY.

PRAYERS FOR THE HOLY SOULS.

One of the most consoling doctrines of the Catholic Church is that of the Communion of Saints. All men - the saints in Heaven, we upon

earth, the souls in Purgatory — are members of one great family. By this “bond of perfection” which unites the Suffering and Triumphant Church with the Militant Church upon earth, incorporating them into one body, mutual charity becomes an obligation. This reciprocal love, being the duty of all men, renders it imperative that all should pray for one another, for in this general prayer, offered mutually, Christian charity is most beautifully and eloquently expressed.

From this general obligation we derive the special duty to pray for the suffering souls in Purgatory, who are unable in their extreme distress to do aught for their own relief. It has always been the belief of holy Church, that the faithful, united in the Communion of Saints, can mutually assist each other. As the saints in Heaven pray for us, so must we also offer our petitions for the suffering souls in Purgatory, that God in His goodness and mercy, may mitigate and shorten their punishment, and hasten their entrance into Heaven. It is the doc-

4 Prayers for the Holy Souls

trine of the Church that the faithful upon earth are really able to relieve the temporal punishment of the holy souls in Purgatory. "In this," says the Roman Catechism, "the supreme mercy and goodness of God deserve our grateful acknowledgement and praise, that He has granted to our frailty the privilege that one may satisfy for another."

Prayer: O Lord, Jesus Christ, Thou Who hast said, "Where there are two or three gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them." (Matth. xviii. 20) look mercifully upon Thy holy Church, who implores Thy clemency in behalf of her suffering members. End their intense pain, and open unto them the portals of the heavenly Jerusalem, that they may praise and bless Thee forever and ever. Amen.

Special Intercession: Pray for those who, during the course of their earthly lives, did most to relieve the souls in Purgatory.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine

upon them; may they rest in peace.
Amen.

(300 days' indulgence each time. Say three times.) (No. 536)

Practice: Attend the public devotion for the suffering souls.

Invocation: My Jesus, mercy!

*(300 days' indulgence every time for the souls in Purgatory.) (No. 55)

SECOND DAY.

COMMEMORATION OF "ALL SOULS."

The commemoration of "All Souls" was instituted by the Church as a day of special prayer for all the faithful departed who are as yet deprived of the blissful contemplation of God, and the possession of Heaven. These holy souls endure most agonizing torments, and count the lingering moments of time, while awaiting release from prison, or, at least some relief in their intense pain. They have special confidence in their friends and relatives upon earth, hoping to be lovingly cherished in their memory, and aided by their fervent prayers. With holy Job they cry out: "Have pity on

6 Commemoration of All Souls

me, have pity on me, at least you, my friends, because the hand of the Lord hath touched me." (Job xix. 21.)

The anniversary of All Souls should serve to revive and confirm our devotion in behalf of the suffering souls in Purgatory, and induce us to make ample amends for our neglect of this duty during the year. "A gift hath grace in the sight of all the living, and restrain not grace from the dead." (Eccl. vii. 37.)

Prayer: O God, Creator and Redeemer of all the faithful, grant to the souls of Thy servants pardon of all their sins, that by pious supplications they may graciously obtain the remission they have always desired. Who livest and reignest world without end. Amen.

Special Intercession: Pray for the souls of those who suffer the greatest torments.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine

upon them; may they rest in peace.
Amen.

(Three times)

Practice: Examine how often, and in what manner you have practised prayer for the souls in Purgatory during the year.

Invocation: My Jesus, mercy!

THIRD DAY.

THE DOCTRINE OF PURGATORY.

The destiny awaiting us at death is not the same for all men: "He will render to every man according to his works." (Matth. xvi. 27.) Heaven, Hell, and Purgatory are the three places into which the souls of the departed are received. Heaven is the happy destination of perfectly pure and holy souls only; Hell the final doom of the reprobate; Purgatory, temporarily for the just, who are not as yet entirely purified. There God completes the punishment due