



Dom Prosper Guéranger

ABOUT THE HELP THE LIVING CAN GIVE TO THE DEAD - SUFFRAGES



An angel frees souls from purgatory, Ludovico Carracci, 1610, Pinacoteca Vaticana

Praised be Jesus Christ!

“We will not have you ignorant, brethren, concerning them that are asleep, that you be not sorrowful, even as others who have no hope.”
(1 Thessalonians 4:13).

The Church today has the same desire as the Apostle thus expressed to the first Christians. The truth concerning the dead not only proves admirably the union between God’s justice and his goodness; it also inspires a charitable pity which the hardest heart cannot resist, and at the same time offers to the mourners the sweetest consolation. If faith teaches us the existence of a purgatory, where our loved ones may be detained by unexpiated sin, it is also of faith that we are able to assist them; and theology assures us that their more or less speedy deliverance lies in our power. Let us call to mind a few principles, which throw light on this doctrine. Every sin causes a twofold injury to the sinner: it stains his soul, and renders him liable to punishment. Venial sin,

which displeases God, requires a temporal expiation. Mortal sin deforms the soul, and makes the guilty man an abomination to God: its punishment cannot be anything less than eternal banishment, unless the sinner, in this life, prevent the final and irrevocable sentence. But even then the remission of the guilt, though it revokes the sentence of damnation, does not cancel the whole debt. Although an extraordinary overflow of grace upon the prodigal may sometimes, as is always the case with regard to baptism and martyrdom, bury every remnant and vestige of sin in the abyss of divine oblivion; yet it is the ordinary rule that for every fault, satisfaction must be made to God’s justice, either in this world or in the next.

On the other hand, every supernatural act of virtue brings a double profit to the just man: it merits for his soul a fresh degree of grace; and it makes satisfaction for past faults, in exact proportion to the value, in God’s sight, of that labor, privation, or trial accepted, or that voluntary suffering endured, by one of the members of his beloved Son. Now, whereas merit is a personal acquisition and cannot be transferred to others, satisfaction may be vicarious; God is willing to accept it in payment of another’s debt, whether the recipient of the boon be in this world or in the next, provided only that he be united by grace to the mystical Body of our Lord, which is one in charity. This is a consequence of the mystery of the Communion of Saints, as Suarez explains in his beautiful treatise on Suffrages. Appealing to the authority of the greatest and most ancient princes of science, and discussing the objections and restrictions since proposed by others, the illustrious theologian does not hesitate to formulate this conclusion, with regard to the suffering souls in particular: “I believe that this satisfaction of the living for the dead is a matter of simple justice, and that it is infallibly accepted with its full value, and according to the intention of him who applies it. Thus, for instance, if the satisfaction I make would, if kept for myself, avail me in strict justice for the remission of four degrees of purgatory, it will remit exactly the same amount to the soul for whom I choose to offer it.”

We well know how the Church seconds the good-will of her children. By the practice of Indulgences, she places at their charitable disposal the inexhaustible treasure accumulated, from age to age, by the superabundant satisfactions of the Saints, added to those of the Martyrs, and united to those of our blessed Lady and the infinite residue of our Lord’s sufferings. These remissions of punishment she grants to the living by her own direct power; but she nearly always approves of and permits their application to the dead by way of suffrage, that is to say, in the manner in which, as we have seen, each of the faithful may offer to God who accepts it, for another, the suffrage or succor of his own satisfactions. Such is the doctrine of Suarez, who adds that an Indulgence ceded to the dead loses nothing either of the security or of the value it would have had for ourselves who are still militant.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dear Faithful,

From Monday, November 8th to Saturday, November 13th, I will be participating in a spiritual retreat at our house in Maria Engelport, near Koblenz (Germany). This priestly retreat which will be preached by Msgr. Michael Schmitz, Vicar General in our Institute, offers to all participating canons of the Institute a spiritual renewal in the Salesian spirit of our community. The program of this retreat includes the Divine office that will be prayed each day in community including Sext, Vespers and Compline as well as time for rest, private meditation and meals in silence.

After my return to the United Kingdom on Saturday, November 13th, I will be obliged to observe a time of quarantine. The Mass of Remembrance Day on Sunday, November 14th, will be celebrated by Father Stephen Goodman from Wolverhampton. Fr. Gerard McGuinness will celebrate the Masses on Saturday, 13th of November. The other weekday Masses had to be cancelled. (All Masses listed in our Mass schedule will be celebrated privately in the indicated intentions by me personally in Maria Engelport.)

I will be celebrating publicly again on Friday, November 19th, at 10:00 am as indicated in our schedule.

Thank you for your understanding and for your prayers for a fruitful retreat.

~ Canon Michael Wiener



Benediction at Maria Engelport, 2020

Donations Sunday October 31st

Collection	£	122.90
Bank transfer	£	365.00
Total	£	487.90
Seminary Collection	£	172.40

Thank you very much!

MR. WILLIAM QUIRK - 100TH BIRTHDAY ON NOVEMBER 11TH

On the very happy occasion of Mr. William Quirk's 100th birthday on November 11th, we express our heartfelt and grateful wishes and assure him and his family of our faithful prayers. The superiors and all canons of the Institute as well as our entire community of faithful in Shrewsbury wish Bill Quirk the abundance of God's graces and the continuous protection by the Immaculate Mother of God, the Queen of all Saints.

We thank Mr. Quirk wholeheartedly for his longstanding support of the work of the Institute in Shrewsbury. With his patience and competent counsel Mr. Quirk became early on one of the columns of the now well established apostolic work of the Institute in this part of the diocese to which our community has been invited in 2013 by His Lordship, Bishop Mark Davies.

SHREWSBURY WEEKLY SCHEDULE

DAY	DATE	TIME	MASS OF THE DAY	INTENTIONS
Sun	7 th Nov	12:30 pm	24 th Sunday after Pentecost	Jackie Haughey RIP
Mon	8 th Nov	10:00 am	Cancelled	Patrick Joanston RIP
Tue	9 th Nov	6:30 pm	Cancelled	Sean Anderson RIP
Wed	10 th Nov	10:00 am	Cancelled	Francis Smyth RIP
Thu	11 th Nov	6:30 pm	Cancelled	William Quirk, 100 th Birthday
Fri	12 th Nov	10:00 am	Cancelled	Brian & Judy Foster
Sat	13 th Nov	10:00 am	St. Didacus, Confessor (Celebrant Fr. McGuinness)	Christopher & family
Sun	14 th Nov	12:30 pm	Remembrance Day (Celebrant Fr. Goodman)	PI

All Masses (also Adoration and Benediction on Tuesday and Thursday) are at St. Winefride's Church, 187 Crowmere Rd, Shrewsbury SY2 5LA.

Note: Adoration and Benediction on Tuesdays and Thursdays start at 5.30pm before the 6.30pm Mass.

St. Winefride's Presbytery, Mynd Close, Shrewsbury SY2 5RA
 Rev. Canon Michael Wiener, Prior of the House of Saint Chad
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