Sister Mary Seraphine, a member of a religious community in Malines, Belgium, in 1870, often heard moanings and exclamations like those her father had displayed when suffering. She also continually heard a voice saying distinctly, “Dear daughter, have mercy on me, have mercy on me!” On the evening of October 14th, when the Sister had retired to bed in the novitiate dormitory and was just about to fall asleep, she suddenly saw her father between the wall and the bed. He looked very sorrowful and was enveloped in flames.

On the 16th of October the soul appeared again. The Sister had been instructed to say, “All good spirits praise the Lord!” As she received no reply she thought it was an evil spirit. But reading her thoughts, her father replied, “No, no. I am not a devil!” She answered, “Then say with me, ‘Praise be to Jesus Christ and Mary!’” He repeated this prayer twice, and then added the words of the Gospel of St. John, “Et Verbum caro factum est!” —And the Word was made flesh.” Then he continued, “Alas, alas, I am over six years in Purgatory, and you have no compassion for me!” “Poor father,” the Sister replied, “how can you speak thus, when it is scarcely three months since you died?” —“Oh, you do not know what eternity is! The soul, once having seen God, is consumed with an ardent desire of remaining in His presence. I am sentenced to Purgatory for six months; but if your community would pray perseveringly for me, my punishment would be reduced by one-half. God has permitted me to implore you continually for my release. How senseless I was to have opposed your vocation. Now I am relieved only in your presence. The rest of my children think I am in heaven, and scarcely one of them now and then says a De Profundis (Psalm 129) for me.”

From November 1 to November 8, the Missionaries of St. John the Baptist will offer the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass for the repose of the souls of our benefactors who have died, as well as for the deceased relatives and friends of our benefactors (to participate see reverse side).

A PARTIAL INDULGENCE is granted to the faithful who piously recite the psalm De Profundis . . . In times past religious orders had their members recite this Psalm for the Poor Souls as they made their way from the chapel to the refectory to aid the poor souls in making their transition from Purgatory to the Eternal Banquet.

Deus, veniæ largitor et humanæ salutis amator, quæsumus clementiam tuam: ut nostræ congregatio frater, propinquus et benefactor, qui ex hoc sæculo transierunt, beata Maria semper Virgine intercedente cum omnibus Sanctis tuïs, ad perpetuæ beatiæ consilio pervenire concedas. Per Christum Dóminum nostrum. Amen.

The De Profundis—Psalm 129

De profundis I have cried to thee, O Lord: Look, hear my voice. Let thy ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication. If thou, O Lord, wilt mark iniquities: Lord, who shall stand it? For with thee there is merciful forgiveness: and by reason of thy law, I have waited for thee, O Lord. My soul hath relied on his word: My soul hath hoped in the Lord. From the morning watch even until night, let Israel hope in the Lord. Because with the Lord there is mercy: and with him plentiful redemption. And he shall redeem Israel from all his iniquities. V. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. R. And let perpetual light shine upon them. Let us pray.

O God, the Giver of pardon and Lover of man’s salvation, we beseech Thee in Thy mercy to grant that our brethren, kinsfolk, and benefactors, who have passed out of this life may, by the intercession of the Blessed Mary, ever Virgin and of all Thy Saints, partake of everlasting bliss. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen

A good image to keep in mind when thinking of a soul in Purgatory is a beggar holding a tin cup and asking for the alms of our prayers. Since any growth in grace, charity, and merit happens only while in the body, the souls in the Church Suffering cannot help themselves but depend upon us to assist them in paying down their debts. These dear ones were good and faithful soldiers who fought the good fight but were wounded in the battle of life with the scars or remains of forgiven sins and unrepented venial sins still on their souls. They cry out in their need as they long with an unrelenting thirst for the Living Waters above. Pray for the Holy and Poor Souls in Purgatory, and please pray for us. As the souls in the Church Suffering long to be released and into the Heavenly Jerusalem, so too we long to see the complete restoration of our new chapel. You have been so generous in the past in helping us to purchase the church, but now we call upon you to assist us in making it something beautiful for God and Our Lady. Our need is great and our resources are limited. —Fr. Shannon Collins, MSJB

Indulgences

An indulgence, applicable only to the Souls in Purgatory, is granted to the faithful who devoutly visit a cemetery and pray, even if only mentally, for the departed. The indulgence offered is plenary each day from the 1st to the 8th of November; on other days of the year it is partial.

Have Pity! You at least, my friends...

Hear your loved ones softly pleading, From the green graves lonesome lying. Ever crying: “Have pity! You at least, my friends...”

While the hot skies far are glowing, Think of pain no relief knowing, Their prison fires appalling, Their piteous voices calling: “Have pity! You at least, my friends...”

In the time of sad remembrance, Give a prayer to old friends gone, Let your heart with mournful greeting, Hear their sad appeal repeating: “Have pity! You at least, my friends...”

By the love in life you bore them, By the tears in death shed o’er them, By their words and looks in dying, Hear their plaintive voices crying: “Have pity! You at least, my friends...”

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Building Fund Goal: $250,000 (set Dec 1, 2015)

If you would like to have any names of your beloved deceased included in this octave of Masses, please write them down (index card provided) and send them to us to be placed on the Altar of Sacrifice.

If you would like to include an offering, please make checks payable to the Missionaries of St. John the Baptist or, more simply, MSJB.

May God reward you!
The Missionaries of Saint John the Baptist (www.msjb.info)