



Missionarii Sancti Joannis Baptistae

Vox clamantis in deserto, parate viam Domini

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The *De Profundis*—Ps. 129

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).

ONE DAY, chasing butterflies with her friends, Bld. Eugénie Smet (d. 1871), the future foundress of The Society of Helpers of the Holy Souls, an exuberant seven year old, suddenly stopped her rapid pursuit: "Do you know what I think?" she said to her friends, and, without waiting for an answer, she continued in a serious manner: "Tell me, if one of us were in a prison of fire, and a simple word would deliver us from it, we would quickly say the word, wouldn't we? . . . That's what happens in Purgatory: It's like a prison of fire for the souls there. The Good Lord is only waiting for a prayer to deliver them, yet we don't say this prayer."

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.

THE DE PROFUNDIS—PSALM 129

DE PROFUNDIS clamavi ad te, Domine:
Domine, exaudi vocem meam.

Fiant aures tuæ intendentes,
in vocem deprecationis meæ.

Si iniquitates observaveris, Domine:
Domine, quis sustinebit?

Quia apud te propitiatio est:
et propter legem tuam sustinui te,
Domine.

Sustinuit anima mea in verbo eius:
speravit anima mea in Domino.

A custodia matutina usque ad noctem;
speret Israel in Domino.

Quia apud Dominum misericordia:
et copiosa apud eum redemptio.

Et ipse redimet Israel,
ex omnibus iniquitatibus eius.

V. *Requiem æternam dona eis, Domine.*
R. *Et lux perpetua luceat eis.*

Orémus.

DEUS, VENIÆ largitor et humanæ salutis
amator, quæsumus clementiam tuam: ut
nostræ congregationis fratres, propinquos
et benefactores, qui ex hoc sæculo
transierunt, beata Maria semper Virgine
intercedente cum omnibus Sanctis tuis,
ad perpetuæ beatitudinis consortium
pervenire concedas. Per Christum
Dóminum nostrum. *Amen.*



OUT OF THE DEPTHS I have
cried to thee, O Lord:
Lord, 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*

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,

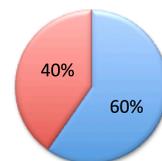
By their words and looks in dying,

Hear their plaintive voices crying:

"Have pity! You at least, my friends. . ."

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 meriting 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

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)