



Missionarii Sancti Joannis Baptistæ

Vox clamantis in deserto, parate viam Domini

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The Abode of Hell is a Real Place

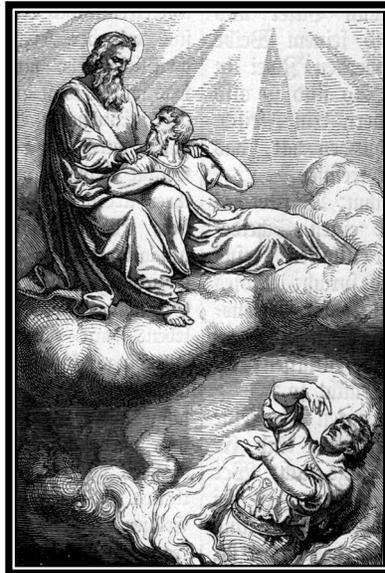
ON JULY THIRTEENTH, 1917, Our Lady of Fatima opened up the ground before the very eyes of the shepherd children to reveal the abode of hell down below. Sad to say in our rationalistic times, where man decides for himself what is true and false, what is good and bad, many have reduced hell to being nothing more than a state of mind. In taking this path, they often openly deny that hell is an actual place or abode wherein the reprobate will eternally dwell and justly pay for their sins.

How good it is to be Catholic and know that a chorus of voices tells us that hell is a real place in the Universe and not merely a state of mind. What is more, these voices indicate its location is below the surface of the earth, just as the children of Fatima saw. Let us now hear from some of these voices.

St. Gregory the Great gave two reasons for hell's location being down below: "If we call it the nether regions (*infernus* [the Latin for 'hell']), for the reason that it is beneath us [*inferius*], what earth is in relation to heaven, such should be hell in relation to earth." Secondly, from the words of Apocalypse 5:3: 'No man was able, neither in heaven, nor on earth, *nor under the earth*, to open the book': where the words 'in heaven' refer to the angels, 'on earth' to men living in the body, and 'under the earth' to souls in hell."

St. Augustine indicates two reasons for hell being under the earth. One is that "whereas the souls of the departed sinned through love of the flesh, they should be treated as the dead flesh is wont to be treated, by being buried beneath the earth." The other is that heaviness is to the body what sorrow is to the spirit,

and joy (of spirit) is as lightness (of body). Thus, "just as in reference to the body, all the heavier things are beneath the others, if they be placed in order of gravity, so in reference to the spirit, the lower place is occupied by whatever is more sorrowful"; and thus even as the empyrean heaven is a fitting place for the joy of the elect, so the lowest



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).

part of the earth is a fitting place for the sorrow of the damned. Sheeban (a great theologian of the 19th C) says: "Many passages both in the Old and New Testaments seem to indicate that Hell is somewhere under the earth (here he lists 9 different passages). Such, too, is the common teaching of the Fathers and theologians (here he mentions Aquinas and Suarez)." In explaining the Creed, the *Roman Catechism* states very plainly: "hell here signifies those hidden abodes, in which are detained souls that have not obtained heavenly bliss; and in this sense the word is used in many passages of Scripture. Thus, in the Apostle [St. Paul] we read, that, at the name of Jesus, every knee should bow, of things in heaven, in earth, *and under the earth.*"

More voices sound from the mystics such as St. Lydwine, St. Teresa of Jesus, Ven. Mary of Agreda, and Sr. Josepha Menendez. Each of these either saw hell or visited it themselves. All of them describe its location as down in the earth as do all the literary works such as Dante's *Inferno* and the various paintings of the masters. Even nature agrees with the temperature of the lithosphere increasing 1° F for every 70 feet of depth.

All this makes perfect sense when we realize that hell must be an actual place if it will someday have bodies also present. In other words, the bodies of the damned will be resurrected on the last day and reunited with their souls to share in the eternal reparations needed for sins committed in this life. Bodies must have a place in which to dwell.

This doctrine is important for All Souls Day because Purgatory is also down in the earth. When the saints saw purified souls leave Purgatory, they always came up *out of the earth* and flew *up* to heaven. Again, when the mystics visited Purgatory, they always describe their journey as going down and coming back up again as Dante portrayed in his *Divine Comedy*.

Once again, let's listen to the *Roman Catechism*: "These abodes [under the earth where every knee must bend], are not all of one and the same kind, for amongst them is that most loathsome and dark prison, in which the souls of the damned together with the unclean spirits are tortured in eternal and inextinguishable fire. This place is also called Gehenna, the bottomless pit, and in its literal signification, hell. There is also the fire of Purgatory, in which the souls of the just are purified by punishment for a stated time, to the end that they may be admitted into their eternal country, into which nothing defiled entereth."

The harmony of these voices is clear. Hell and Purgatory are places under the earth, dark abodes of punishment, that we should take every means provided by heaven to avoid making part of our future. In the meantime, let us help our friends passing through the dungeon of Purgatory get released early by our efforts to shorten their stay. ☪



GIVING THEM SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT



REVEN AS POLITICALLY MOTIVATED ICONOCLASTS are tearing down the various monuments of our country's heritage, we put up life size statues of the Sacred Heart and St. Joseph in our sanctuary. God willing, we will soon be putting up a beautiful life size statue of St. Therese of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face in the entry, as well as smaller statues of the four Evangelists along the choir loft railing, each with their own niche. All of these sacred images were recovered and restored just as souls are bought back by His Majesty, Christ Our Lord, and restored to perfect beauty in Purgatory. If you ever stop by for a visit, we are confident you will indeed be edified.

A dedicated pastor of souls once said to his associates, "Give them something to talk about!" He meant give them something good and edifying to see and wonder about. I hope you agree that we are striving to do just that. Whether it is the building of our Grotto or the preaching of parish missions, retreats and teaching catechism to give new hope to the faithful, we are indeed giving them something to talk about.

It is our hope that you are open to helping us fund these projects. Please note that all donations are 501c3 tax deductible. And be assured that all our benefactors, living and deceased, are remembered daily in prayers and our yearly Novena of Masses. ☪

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. . ."

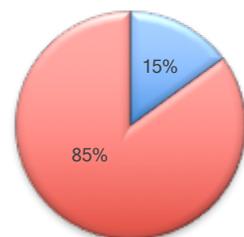
By the love in life you bore them,
By the tears in death shed o'er them,
By their words and looks in dying,
Hear their plaintive voices crying:
"Have pity! You at least, my friends. . ."

INDULGENCE

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.

Phase 1--Building Fund Goal:

\$400,000



■ donations: \$59.8K (as of May 1, 2017)

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

If you would like to include an offering for our building project, please make checks payable to the Missionaries of St. John the Baptist or just MSJB.



May God reward you!

The Missionaries of Saint John the Baptist (www.msjb.info)