



Missionarii Sancti Joannis Baptistae

Vox clamantis in deserto, parate viam Domini

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“...never send to know for whom the bell tolls;
It tolls for thee.”

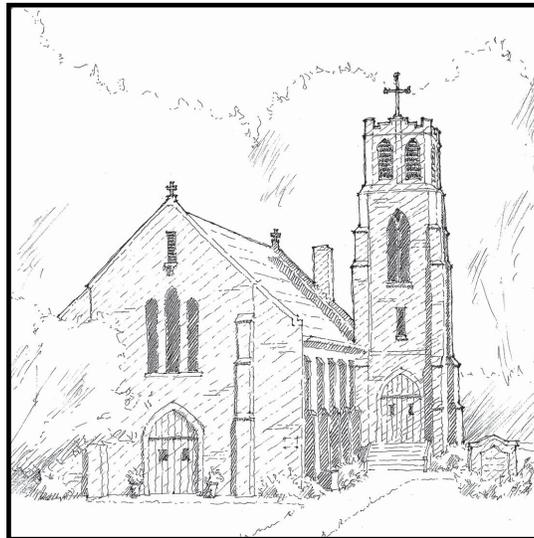


ADLY, THE PROPER AND FITTING BURIAL of the faithful departed is more and more neglected in our times. Since man is body and soul, our bodies participate in our baptism, becoming indelibly marked as a soldier of Christ along with the soul at this font of life. With and through our bodies we receive the remaining Sacraments, kneel down to pray, hear or read the Word of God. No wonder, then, St. Paul exclaims “know you not, that your members are the temple of the Holy Ghost, Who is in you, Whom you have from God; and you are not your own? For you are bought with a great price. Glorify and bear God in your body” (1Cor 6:19-20).

For these and other reasons we have special rites for burying the faithful departed such as the funeral or Requiem Mass, but we also have special places, consecrated ground or Catholic cemeteries, to lay their bodies. And these practices are truly ancient as well as fitting.

Listen to St. Robert Bellarmine provide yet a few more reasons: “we say that burial is useful both for the living and the dead. For the living in four ways: *First*, to ward off the stench and horror of cadavers by burial, which would do no little harm to the living. *Second*, for the living to witness their faith in

such zeal. We would not take such care of the bodies of the dead unless we thought they will rise again. Nor would we light candles unless we meant to show that souls live after the death of their bodies. *Third*, for the living to be warned of their own death, this is why the tombs of the dead are called monuments (similar to *admonish* in the Latin). *Fourth*, by that office the living make satisfaction in some way for the affections they hold for the dead. If we carefully arrange the garments and rings of friends, certainly much more their bodies; and this is what St. Augustine means when he says that the pomp of burial is a comfort for the living.



Proposed Bell Tower for Our Lady of Lourdes

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).

“Now we add the utility from burial for the dead,” wherein he gives among other reasons these: “*First*, that the honor paid to them remains in the minds of the living, for one cannot lack some ignominy when the foulness of our bodies is exposed to the sight of the living. Further, it is judged no small punishment when someone is deprived of burial by a judge and commanded to be hung from a gibbet or a wheel to food for the birds. *Second*, that it satisfies the desires they had while they were alive, for there is no one that hates his own flesh, as it is said in Ephesians 2:9, and thus while

anyone lives, he desires also that after his death his body will be handled with integrity; nay more, it is believable that souls, once they have been freed from their bodies, even if they did not know what happened to their bodies, still would desire they be held with integrity, just as they also desire to go back to them as Augustine teaches. *The third utility* arises from the fact that many carry them to burial; hence it happens that by that circumstance many will also pray for them."

We now add a further reason for a proper burial, namely the tolling of the bells. Bells tolling for the deceased have a sublime effect on nearly everyone who hears them. The listener is struck by the sorrowful sound... quiets down... ponders realities of time and eternity. They are more inclined to pray for the dead, call to mind their own deceased loved ones, remembering all the while that they too will someday have bells tolling for them. O how important are those bells to make a burial fitting for both the living and dead!

Our Bells have been restored by The Verdin Company, Cincinnati, Ohio. They were blessed and anointed by our bishop on Feb 11, 2017. They are ready to be installed but we are still awaiting final plans of the architect and general contractor which should be finalized soon. Your kind donations will help us make the completion of this project possible. ☞



ST. NICHOLAS OF TOLENTINO & THE POOR SOULS

ST. NICHOLAS OF TOLENTINO (d. 1305) was visited by a poor soul from Purgatory, saying: 'I am the soul of Brother Pellegrino whom you knew when alive: now I am tormented in this blaze. Upon receiving my contrition, God did not destine me to eternal punishment, which I deserved due to my weakness, but to purgatorial punishment, in virtue of His mercy. Now I humbly beg you to be so kind to celebrate a Mass for the Dead, in order that I may be finally removed from these flames'. ... 'Come, o venerable father, come and see for yourself ... a miserable multitude.' The soul then showed him the small plain nearby on which in fact there was a multitude of people, of both genders, of various ages and conditions and also belonging to a variety of religious orders. 'Have mercy, o father, have mercy on such a miserable multitude, that awaits for your beneficial assistance; actually if you will be willing to celebrate Mass for us, the majority of these people will be removed from these atrocious torments.'" Upon awakening, the holy man sought the proper permissions to offer the Mass for the Dead during that week, as well as day and night cried tears of love for that multitude that had been shown to him. And then, after the week went by, the same Brother Pellegrino appeared to Nicholas again and thanked him for fulfilling the request, informing him that a large portion of the previously mentioned multitude, through the mercy of God, through the Masses celebrated and through his tearful prayers had been liberated. ☞

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. . ."

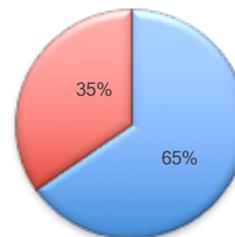
By the love in life you bore them,
By the tears in death shed o'er them,
By their words and looks in dying,
Hear their plaintive voices crying:
"Have pity! You at least, my friends. . ."

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: \$261.5K (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 (index card provided) and send them to us to be placed on the Altar of Sacrifice here at Our Lady of Lourdes.

For any donations to help us renovate our bell tower, 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)