



Missionarii Sancti Joannis Baptistae

Vox clamantis in deserto, parate viam Domini

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Christ's Faithful on Earth Succor Poor Souls



SAINTS ARE KNOWN for having good connections, not only with God Himself, but also with His saints in heaven and the poor souls in Purgatory. St. Margaret of Cortona (d. 1297), was one of these saints. At times she was visited by the Poor Souls themselves as well as His Majesty, Jesus Christ the King, who taught her about the Church Suffering. She always responded with prayer for them and these prayers were so effective that they always addressed her as "mother." Thus, we hear from her medieval biographer how the souls appeared, pleading: "Pray for us, O most holy mother! Through your intercession, we will be able to proceed more quickly into celestial joy." This same author gives us a number of additional accounts and revelations to St. Margaret concerning Purgatory, all of which harmonize with the official Church teaching. Here are a few. "Christ said: 'Daughter ... with regard to your father, for whom you have prayed insistently, I assure you that he has been released from Purgatory. Do not doubt concerning his past life, that you were familiar with, because there are various kinds of suffering in Purgatory, and many afflictions were reserved for him so that he was purified quickly.'" It should be noted that in an earlier revelation from His Majesty, He Himself told her this same father lacked "fatherly pity" regarding Margaret at the

time of her conversion and ended up shunning her. Yet, through the love of his penitent child, her father was freed from the prison of Purgatory to attain heavenly bliss.



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).

Answering Margaret's prayer for a friend, His Majesty spoke to her thus: "My daughter, Gilia must suffer in Purgatory for a month, because she was angry with some jealous people; nevertheless her pains are light because her anger was zealous."

The Lord spoke to her on another occasion: "You should know, my daughter, that ...in this place the three souls you recommended to me suffer almost as much as those in hell. Here in Purgatory are traitors, lying judges and lawyers and those stained with the abominable vice. But everyone in this place ended their lives with a true repentance and the intention to stop sinning."

A tragic death but a glorious reward: "A certain Sister Adriana, well known for her piety and honesty, was trampled to death when she was returning from the indulgence of S. Maria degli Angeli. Margaret, the servant of God, was grieving for her

with a flood of tears when she heard: 'Do not weep for your Andriana, my daughter. *Because of the merits she received from the indulgence, she is now among the glory of the blessed, having avoided the pains of Purgatory.*'"

Two men, who had been murdered by bandits appeared to her, pleading: "'At the time

when we were murdered, we did not have the chance to go to confession. While traveling on the highway, some bandits stopped us and took us into the forest. There, our Creator gave us the opportunity to be contrite for our sins, and to face our cruel deaths with patience. Hence, because of His mercy, we were spared the eternal flames. O beloved daughter of God, we used to be shoemakers, but I, who am speaking to you, was not honest in running my business. I beg you, O pious mother, to ask my family to make satisfaction for me, for the mountain folk, and for this my brother who is with me. We are in great torment here in Purgatory. And I more so, because I have been guilty of pretending friendship and love. Pray for us, O spouse of God! Margaret prayed for these two souls, as well as for others who were similarly in anguish. The Lord said to her: "Tell the Friars Minor to remember the souls of the departed, for you have no idea how many there are in Purgatory and *how few of their loved ones on earth pray for them.* Say to those religious who are overly involved in worldly affairs that they will have to endure much pain in Purgatory."

His Majesty warns us through this saint with these words: "Many who are now reluctant to divest themselves of their faults will be forced to do so only with the cruel torments of Purgatory." Let us pray for the Poor Souls and strive to shorten our own Purgatory. ❀



Prayer For Our Relatives In Purgatory

GOOD JESUS, whose loving Heart was ever troubled by the sorrows of others, look with pity on the souls of our dear ones in Purgatory. O Good Jesus, who "loved your own," hear our cry for mercy, and grant those whom Thou didst call from our homes and hearts, may soon enjoy everlasting rest in the home of Thy love in heaven. *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen*

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.

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 donations to help us continue to build up the Body of Christ, 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)