



# Missionarii Sancti Joannis Baptistæ

*Vox clamantis in deserto, parate viam Domini*

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## Dying a Dormition-like-Death with Our Lady



IN HIS BOOK *The Rage Against God*, Peter Hitchens notes how after the First World War with its massive loss of life, corruption of morals, family life and culture, "Protestant England was particularly troubled ... because most of its very protestant churches were unable to permit the prayers for the dead that many bereaved families would have liked to offer. Spiritualism [i.e., séances] with its promise of renewed contact with the departed briefly flourished because of this." O how good it is to be Catholic since we are provided the solution to such difficulties! A true Catholic has no need to turn to the occult or ghosts for answers. We have the ability to say goodbye to our beloved dead and do them a continued kindness through the Holy Mass and other prayers the Church provides us. We can even rest at some ease knowing with confidence that their souls had the benefits the Church offers to her dying children through the Sacraments and sacramentals. One of these sacramentals is the Brown Scapular, which promises for those who wear it faithfully: "Whosoever dies clothed in this Scapular shall not suffer eternal fire."

One of the reasons for our Catholic certainty is simply this: Our Lady herself gave us this Scapular, not some ghost sought by those turning to séances seek; and this same Lady confirmed it again at Fatima's Miracle of the Sun on October 13, 1917. What is more, its promises have been affirmed by the Church, not only in Papal Bulls, but also in the Church's prayers accompanying its proper usage. Thus

we hear the priest conclude at the Scapular enrollment: "We beg her [the Blessed Virgin Mary] to crush the head of the ancient serpent in the hour of your death, and, in the end, to obtain for you the palm and crown of your everlasting inheritance." Finally, we can rightly conclude with longstanding tradition, that the Blessed Virgin Mary herself died a peaceful dormition-like death so that we too can die a holy and happy death by her intercession.



**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).**

Our Lady died!? Did she *really* die? Many like to point out that Pope Pius XII, when officially defining Our Lady's bodily Assumption into Heaven, did not make mention of her death in the solemn definition. This definition reads, in part: "the Immaculate Mother of God, the ever Virgin Mary, *having completed the course of her earthly life*, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory." Let us keep in mind that Pope Pius XII was defining the dogma of Her bodily Assumption into Heaven, not whether she experienced death at the completion of her course of earthly life. That would require a separate definition. The Magisterium is very careful in these matters, defining only one thing at a time.

Second of all, a careful reading of *Munificentissimus Deus*, the document of Pope Pius XII defining Our Lady's Assumption, shows that the Pope actually states multiple times and in numerous ways (mostly using quotes from the Fathers and Doctors of East and West) that Our Lady did indeed die. God, then, worked a marvelous reversal that we

admire to this very day... because He raised up her immaculate body—alive and well and wonderfully glorified—and united it to her soul, to reign forever in Heaven as Queen of Heaven and earth!

Our Immaculate Queen, though free from the stain of every sin, still experienced death for a number of reasons: she wanted to imitate her Divine Son in every possible way; in addition, she died in order to merit for us poor sinners, a holy death such as she died, even the possibility of a peaceful, dormition-like-death. No wonder, then, she came down from Heaven to give us the Brown Scapular. With this Scapular, which gives us a share in Our Lady's garment, she can make our passing from this world more peaceful, holy, and happy. Let us be sure to wear her Brown Scapular faithfully, which promises us a share in her happy death and gives our loved ones some assurance of our place in the life to come. Even with that assurance, however, we also know we can still offer our beloved dead some acts of love and kindness by hastening their release from Purgatory through our prayers and assistance. Let us also not take lightly those words with which we were clothed with this holy garment: "Receive this blessed Scapular and ask the most holy Virgin that, by her merits, it may be worn with no stain of sin and may protect you from all harm and bring you into everlasting life." Our Lady always fulfills her promises if we only keep ours. ❧



### 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.

All donations are used to help us continue to build up the Body of Christ, (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](http://www.msjb.info))