



CRUSADERS OF MARY

Newsletter

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The Souls in Purgatory

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All of us have friends among the dead, dear ones laid away only yesterday in God's acre, or perhaps long ago. In their silent graves are those who have smiled with us and have shared in our joys, and those, too, who have wept with us and have been partners in our tears and in our sorrows. Among those who are gone are some whom we have not loved enough and would fain have back to show them marks of affection, others whom we have loved too much and perhaps injured by our example.

In their cold graves, too, there may be those whom we should have lifted up to higher things, but alas we have cast them down, lowering their ideals and weakening their generous purposes. At their death-beds we were sad and we were sincere. In our grief we promised never to forget them, we pledged our word that their memory would linger with us till we had joined them in a better land, where there is no parting. We did not intend to be faithless to our death-bed pledges, yet have we kept our word? How soon after the first few months of pain and loneliness the memory of them began to grow dim! The keenest sorrow is early blunted, and the deepest grief is soon assuaged. It is well of course that it should be so; otherwise, sorrow's burden were unbearable; but the memory of our loved dead ought not to die. It should linger with us like the fragrance of a perfume all throughout

the passing years.

For the Holy Souls in Purgatory the tiresome journey of life on earth is over. The long way is passed and they are weary and tired. Life's struggles are done with and they have conquered in the strife. They are yearning for the sight of the Master's countenance, for which blessed vision they toiled and labored and hoped for so strongly when they died. At the moment when they looked forward to the breaking of that eternal light upon their souls, that light fails to shine upon them, and they are consigned perhaps to years of darkness, years of exclusion from that blessed vision. Perhaps they thought they would, through the grace of Christ, cease from labor and toil and to rest in their Father's house, yet they find themselves in bitterest exile, condemned to pain and to an intolerable delay.

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No pen can describe their agony, solitude and loneliness. Earthly sufferings give us no concept of their pains. Yet in these sad realms of pain where never echoes murmur or complaint, whose prisoners are as silent as Our Blessed Savior before His enemies, there are many who in life were near and dear to us. They are now suffering amid the flames of God's justice, perhaps due to our example and our neglect. Pity alone should move us to aid by every means in our power those faithful ones, that they may soon pass from the exile of their darkness to eternal rest and the vision of our Heavenly Father's face.

But besides pity there is another and a stronger motive for aiding the Holy Souls: the Sacred Heart longs for these prisoners of His justice, and yearns for their presence in His kingdom. The souls in Purgatory are of course saved and safe. They have fought the good fight, kept the faith and won their victory. They have been through the years of their pilgrimage loyal to Him and to His love. For them Calvary has done its work. Over them His enemy can have no power and they can from now on never fall from His grace and His love. They are His friends for evermore.

Yet He sees these dear ones, the trophies of His love, His Blood and His victory, to whom His Heart goes out in their sinless land of sorrow and pain, and yearns to embrace them with a longing stronger than that which in His mortal life He felt to embrace the little ones who came to Him. He thirsts for those suffering souls as He thirsted long ago on Calvary's heights, when in His dying hour the words "I thirst" escaped His cracked and parched lips. Looking out far over that stretching land of tears, He sees the sufferings of those innumerable loved souls. He sees them in an agony like unto death. In their souls He sees a solitude wide as the limitless desert, and a desolation deep as an ocean without bottom and broad as a shoreless sea.

The love of the Sacred Heart of Jesus for those prisoners of hope seems to grow more intense and His longing for them more keen as He dwells on the beautiful

holiness with which they suffer without murmur, without complaint. He sees them as they long and yearn for freedom, that they may fly to Him, in Whose grace they died, and be forever at rest. Our Lord peers with an intense longing over that ocean of upturned suffering faces pleading for a speedy release. His thoughts, no doubt, go back to their lives of virtue on earth, and to their days of fidelity.

He looks, too, at His Blessed Mother and thinks how Her tender heart yearns and wishes to welcome Her suffering sons. He knows that She also remembers their loyalty and their love. His own Mother's desire for these souls, the children of Her pain, begotten by Her at the foot of the cross in the agonies of Mount Calvary, intensifies the longing of His Sacred Heart.



He sees their vacant places in His Father's house and fain would fill them up. He wants to see the pains of His loved ones shortened, the days of their exile ended and the time of their exclusion from His kingdom passed. All this and much more stands out before the mind of Our Blessed Savior as He broods in affection over that suffering land of solitude and loneliness.

Then the eyes of Our Lord, lit with tender charity, turn upon us. He has made us all powerful to help them; He has given for our use the means of their speedy release. He has, as it were, tied His own hands and has made the freedom of the Holy Souls dependent upon our charity.

If we love the Sacred Heart, if we are keen for Its interests, then we shall be zealous in our efforts in behalf of the suffering souls. We shall hear within our souls that cry which has come down through the centuries, "I thirst." It will find a refrain in our hearts and strengthen us to more prayer and self-sacrifices offered up to the Heart of Christ, that He may pour out His graces upon His helpless ones in Purgatory, and draw them quickly to Himself in His Father's home. Will you turn a deaf ear to that cry which was born in the Heart of Christ and which on Good Friday welled up on His lips to let us know His deep yearning, His infinite longing for the souls of men? ■

Helping the Poor Souls

Why is it so important to pray for the poor souls in Purgatory? Firstly, by our prayers for these holy souls we are bringing joy to Our Lord and Our Lady, Who greatly desire to see the sufferings of their children cease, and Who long for the holy souls to join them in Heaven. We have also been commanded by Our Lord to love our neighbor as ourselves. Though they have passed from this mortal life, the souls in Purgatory are still our neighbors. Among them are perhaps many friends and relatives who have left us, and who are continuously suffering unspeakable torments. What greater love can we show for them than helping to release them from their sufferings, so as to be united with God for eternity?

Of the terrible pains of Purgatory St. Cyril of Alexandria stated: "It would be preferable to suffer all the possible torments of earth until the Judgement Day than to pass one day in Purgatory." According to St. Thomas Aquinas, the

fires of Purgatory are no less intense than the fires of hell, and are far worse than any suffering one can experience on this earth.

In considering the reality of the pains of Purgatory, and the fact that God has given each of us the means of procuring the release of countless souls suffering there, how can we refuse to aid them by our prayers (especially the holy Rosary), sacrifices, good works and Masses?

We have also been assured that whatever assistance we render to the holy souls in Purgatory will be repaid many, many times over. The following is one example of the grateful assistance the holy souls render to those who have aided them in reaching Heaven: A poor French servant girl once heard a sermon about the holy souls in Purgatory, which made a strong impression on her. From the sermon, she learned that there are many souls who are very close to being released, and that though one Mass might be enough to free them, they are very often detained for a long period

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Apostolate News ... Ambassadors' Seminar audio tapes.

THE FATIMA CENTER'S first Ambassadors' Seminar took place from September 24-26, 2004 in Glendale, California. The conference, which focused on promoting working actively for the furtherance of the Faith and the Fatima Message, included addresses from top Fatima experts and field workers, who covered a wide variety of informative topics.

The gathering also provided an opportunity for defenders of Our Lady of Fatima to meet and mingle, to gain solidarity in their struggle for the truth. Friendships and acquaintances were formed, and attendees were also given the opportunity to meet Fatima Center workers in person. The over 250 conference participants spent an eventful weekend learning more about their roles as ambassadors of Jesus, Mary and the Catholic Faith, and we pray that they left the conference with a renewed vigor and determination to spread the Faith and Our Lady of Fatima's vital Message.

You too can benefit from the Ambassador's Seminar!

Individual tapes - \$6.95 U.S. postpaid. Entire set in album - \$99.95 U.S.

For FAST service call 1-800-263-8160 and use your credit card.

- Tape 1:** Father Nicholas Gruner: "The Message of Fatima and You"
- Tape 2:** Speakers' Panel: "The Obligation to Believe, Obey and Promote the Message of Fatima" (John Vennari, Peter Chojnowski, Ph.D., Christopher Ferrara, Father Paul Kramer, Jim Condit Jr., Gerry Matatics, Father Nicholas Gruner), Part I
- Tape 3:** Speakers' Panel: "The Obligation to Believe, Obey and Promote the Message of Fatima" Part II
- Tape 4:** John Vennari: "The Present Pagan Assault on Fatima and What You Can Do About It" contains actual soundtrack from the Fatima Interfaith Congress, and the May 5, 2004 Hindu ceremony at Fatima
- Tape 5:** Thomas Droleskey, Ph.D.: "The Necessity of the Fatima Message to Retard Russia's Errors"
- Tape 6:** "How to Become an Effective Apostle of Our Lady", four 15-minute presentations each from Joanna Swords, Andrew Cesanek, Coralie Graham, and Don Pennell

- Tape 7:** Peter Chojnowski, Ph.D.: "Fatima and Catholic Action"
- Tape 8:** Father Patrick Perez: "Obstacles to Fatima: Modernism and Modern Thought"
- Tape 9:** Father Nicholas Gruner: "Fatima and Personal Sanctification"
- Tape 10:** Gerry Matatics: "Scriptural Defense of Marian Doctrine and Devotion"
- Tape 11:** Christopher Ferrara: "The Catholic's Duty to Defend the Faith"
- Tape 12:** Sunday Session: "The Power of the Rosary", hosted by Coralie Graham
- Tape 13:** Jim Condit, Jr.: "A Rosary Crusade to Save America"
- Tape 14:** Father Paul Kramer, "The Imminent Chastisement for Not Obeying Our Lady's Requests"
- Tape 15:** Father Nicholas Gruner: "Time of Apostasy, Time for Action!"



Dear Father Gruner,

No words of mine can express how fortunate we are, as Catholics, that you have had the courage and fortitude to promote Our Lady's Message of Fatima. I am appalled that the promise of the "Five First Saturdays" is being ignored by our Catholic Churchmen! People around the world are living and dying without knowledge of this beautiful grace. Had I not corresponded with you, I probably would never have learned of it.

I pray every day for your continuing courage and good health! God bless your ongoing efforts to get the truth out. Poor Sister Lucy's days are numbered now; she must be sad and deeply disappointed that Our Lady's instructions to the

HELPING THE POOR SOULS
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of time because they are forgotten and neglected.

Therefore the young girl resolved that she would from thence forward have a Mass said for the poor souls every month, and particularly for the soul closest to Heaven. Though she was very poor and sometimes found it difficult, the girl nevertheless kept her promise.

One day, while in Paris with her mistress, the girl became ill and spent a prolonged period in the hospital. Because of the length of the illness, the girl's mistress had to return home, though she hoped that her servant would soon join her. Yet when the girl was finally released from the hospital she had only one franc in her possession, hardly enough to even buy food.

While contemplating what to do, the girl remembered that she had not had her promised monthly Mass offered for the holy souls. Therefore, though she only had one franc and no food or place to stay, she placed her hope in the holy souls. She entered a church and asked a priest who was preparing for Holy Mass if he would offer it for the souls in Purgatory. The priest, having no idea that the alms was the only money the girl possessed, agreed. After Mass, the girl left the church

We'd Like to Hear From YOU!

Crusaders of Mary Newsletter

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Pope(s) and bishops have not been properly executed. We are all witnessing the effects around the world *now*. I shall continue to support your efforts as best I can.

May God bless you,

Gil B., ON

Dearest Father Gruner,

Hello! How have you been? Fine we hope. We know that you are always so very busy. Father, once again we want to tell you that every day we are praying Rosaries and having Masses said for you. Father we have been doing this for you and everyone who is helping you there. You are always and will always be in our prayers. Count on us anytime to help you in whatever you need. We are here to help you and Our Blessed Mother.

May God bless you always and protect you. Please keep us and our family in your prayers and Masses.

Your friends,

Phil and Betsy M., CA

sad and worried.

The poor girl was then approached by a young gentleman who, noting her distress, asked if he could assist her. She recounted her story to him, and concluded that she would very much like to find work.

"I am very pleased to help you," the man said. "I know a woman who is looking for a servant. Come with me." He then led her to a house and instructed her to ring the bell, promising that she would find work.

The lady of the house answered the door, and the girl informed the lady that she had been told that the lady was looking for a servant, and that she would like the position. The lady was stunned. "Who told you that I was looking for a servant?" she asked. "I only dismissed my maid a few moments ago, and it was done suddenly. Did she inform you of this?"

The girl answered that a young gentleman had informed her of the vacant position. The lady, however, was adamant. "That's impossible," she declared. "No one could have known that I need a servant."

Then, seeing a picture of a young man on the wall, the girl pointed and said, "That is the young man who told me!" The lady informed the girl that the picture was of her only son, who had died more than a year earlier. The story of how the girl had used her last franc to have a Mass offered for the poor souls, especially the ones closest to Heaven, was then told.

The lady was convinced of the truth of the girl's story and received her into her home, asking her not to be her servant, but rather her daughter. "You have sent my dear son to Heaven. I believe that it was he who brought you to me," she said. ■