

FAITH ON FIRE: CATHOLIC CLASSICS FROM THE REDEMPTORISTS



Novena & Prayers

by St. Alphonsus Ligouri

**FOR ALL
SOULS**



The Redemptorists

With Him is plentiful redemption. (Psalm 130:7)

Faith on Fire:
Catholic Classics
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This pdf is part of a series
of excerpts from the writings
of St. Alphonsus Liguori.
It is produced by the Congregation of
the Most Holy Redeemer—
the Redemptorists.

It may be distributed freely.

We wish to thank the Internet Archive
(archive.org) for making so many
of the works of St. Alphonsus
available online.

Who are the Redemptorists?

St. Alphonsus Liguori was born in Italy in 1696. He left a thriving legal career against his family's wishes and became a priest. He dedicated himself completely to serving the poor and most abandoned, and in 1732 he founded the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer: **The Redemptorists**.

In 1832 six Redemptorists came to the United States and began their first missionary work outside of Europe. In 1850 the Redemptorists' American Province was established in Baltimore.

Today we Redemptorists continue loving and serving God's people—especially the poor and most spiritually abandoned—in inner cities, hospitals, and prisons and on military bases.

We preach parish missions, staff parishes, promote devotion to Our Lady of Perpetual Help, and evangelize, using both traditional and new media.

We have a special devotion to the crib of Bethlehem; the cross of Calvary; Mary, the Mother of God; and the Eucharist.

Following in the footsteps of St. Alphonsus Liguori and 17 other confreres who have been canonized or beatified, about 5,500 Redemptorists serve in 78 countries throughout the world.

To learn more or connect with us

- visit our website at redemptorists.net
- call 877-876-7662
- e-mail info@redemptorists.net
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Baltimore or
- write us at 107 Duke of Gloucester Street, Annapolis, MD 21401.



DEVOUT EXERCISE FOR THE NINE DAYS
PRECEDING ALL SOULS'-DAY, FOR THE
REPOSE OF THE HOLY SOULS IN PUR-
GATORY.

BY ST. ALPHONSUS M. LIGUORI.

Advantages of this Devotion.

THE practice of recommending to God the souls in Purgatory, that he may mitigate the great pains which they suffer, and that he may soon bring them to his glory, is most pleasing to the Lord, and most profitable to us. For, these blessed souls are his eternal spouses, and they are most grateful to those who obtain

their deliverance from prison, or even a mitigation of their torments. Hence, when they shall enter into heaven, they will certainly not forget those who prayed for them. It is a pious belief that God manifests to them our prayers for them, that they also may pray for us. It is true that these blessed souls are not in a state to pray for themselves, because they are, as it were, criminals atoning for their faults. However, because they are very dear to God, they can pray for us, and obtain for us the divine graces. St. Catharine, of Bologna, when she wished to obtain any grace, had recourse to the souls in purgatory, and her prayers were immediately heard: she declared that by praying to those holy souls, she obtained many favors, which she had sought through the intercession of the saints, but had not obtained. The graces which devout persons are said to have received through these holy souls are innumerable.

But if we wish for the aid of their prayers, it is just, it is even a duty to relieve them by our suffrages. I have said that *it is even a duty*: for Christian charity commands us to relieve our neighbors who stand in need of our

assistance. But who among all our neighbors have so great need of our succor, as these holy prisoners? They are continually in that fire which torments more severely than any earthly fire. They are deprived of the sight of God, a torment far more excruciating than all other pains. Let us reflect that among these suffering souls, are parents or brothers, or relatives and friends who expect our succor. Let us moreover remember that these holy queens being in the condition of debtors for their sins, cannot assist themselves. This thought should impel us to relieve them according to the best of our ability. And, by assisting them, we shall not only give great pleasure to God, but shall also acquire great merit for ourselves. And in return for our suffrages, these blessed souls will not neglect to obtain for us many graces from God, but particularly the grace of eternal life. I hold for certain, that a soul delivered from purgatory by the suffrages of a Christian, will, when she enters paradise, not fail to say to God: "Lord, do not suffer to be lost the person who has liberated me from the prison of purgatory, and has brought me to the enjoyment of thy

glory sooner than I deserved." I publish the following novena, that all the faithful may, by masses, by alms, or at least by their prayers, endeavor to relieve and liberate from purgatory these blessed souls.

Considerations and Prayers to be read for the People on every day of the Novena.

Let us recommend to Jesus Christ and to his holy mother, all the souls in purgatory, but especially those of our relatives, benefactors, friends, and enemies, and still more particularly the souls of those for whom we are bound to pray: and let us consider the great pains which these holy spouses of Jesus Christ endure, and offer to God for their relief the following prayers.

Manifold are the pains which these blessed souls suffer; but the greatest arises from the reflection that by their sins they themselves have been the cause of the torments which they endure.

O Jesus, my Saviour, I have so often merited hell: if I were now among the damned, how great would be the pain which I should feel in thinking that I was the cause of my

own damnation? I thank thee for the patience with which thou hast borne me. My God, because thou art infinite goodness, I love thee above all things, and I am sorry from my heart for having offended thee. I promise thee rather to die than ever offend thee more. Have pity on me, and have pity also on those blessed souls who burn in that fire. Mary, mother of God, succor them by thy powerful prayers.

Let us here say a *Pater* and *Ave* for these souls. Then all the people shall say the following prayer: "O Jesus, for mercy's sake console these souls, these spouses whom thou lovest so tenderly, and who are so severely tormented."

2. Another pain which greatly torments these blessed souls arises from the remembrance of the time which they lost, and in which they could have merited so much glory in paradise, and from the conviction that this loss is now irreparable. For, after death, the time of merit is at an end. Ah, unhappy me, who have lived so long, and have acquired merits only for hell! I thank thee O Lord, for having given me time to repair the evil

which I have done. I am sorry for having offended so good a God. Help me to spend the remainder of my life in loving and serving thee. Have pity on me, and have pity also on those holy souls who burn in that fire. O Mary, mother of God, succor them by thy powerful prayers.

Pater. Ave. O Jesus, for mercy's sake, &c., as above.

3. Another pain which tortures these blessed souls is the frightful appearance of the sins for which they are suffering. In this life, the deformity of sin is not understood, but, in the next, it is fully comprehended. This is one of the severest torments of the souls in purgatory.

O my God, because thou art infinite goodness, I love thee above all things, and I am sorry, from the bottom of my heart for having offended thee, I promise thee, to die rather than ever offend thee more. Give me holy perseverance; have pity on me, and have pity also on those holy souls who burn in that fire. O mother of God, assist them by thy powerful prayers.

Pater. Ave. O Jesus, for mercy's sake, &c.

4. The pain which still more afflicts these

holy souls, the spouses of Jesus, is the thought of having, during life, displeased by their sins that God whom they so ardently love. Some penitents have felt so much pain and sorrow in thinking of having, by their sins, offended so good a God, that they died by grief. The souls in purgatory understand far better than we do, the claims which God has to our love: they love him with all their strength. Hence, at the thought of having offended him during life they experience pain which surpasses all other pain.

O my God, because thou art infinite goodness, I am sorry, with my whole heart, for having offended thee. I promise to die rather than ever offend thee more. Give me holy perseverance: have pity on me, and have pity on all those holy souls who burn in that fire, and love thee with all their hearts. O Mary, mother of God, assist them by thy powerful prayers.

Patcr. Ave. O Jesus, for mercy's sake, &c.

5. Another great torment of these blessed souls arises from not knowing when their pains shall cease, or how long they shall remain in that fire. They feel certain that they

shall be one day liberated; but the uncertainty of the duration of their sufferings, torments them severely.

Unhappy me! O Lord, if thou hadst sent me to hell I should be certain of never leaving that prison of torture. I love thee above all things, O infinite goodness, and I am sorry, with my whole heart, for having offended thee. Give me holy perseverance; have pity on me, and have pity also on those holy souls who burn in that fire. O Mary, mother of God, assist them by thy powerful prayers.

Pater. Ave. O Jesus, for mercy's sake, &c.

6. These blessed souls are indeed consoled by the remembrance of the passion of Jesus Christ, and of the holy sacrament of the altar; because through the communions of the faithful, and the masses celebrated throughout the Church, they have received and receive so many graces. But they are tormented by the thought of having been ungrateful during life for these two great benefits of the love of Jesus Christ.

O my God, thou hast died also for me, and hast given thyself so often to me in the holy communion. And I have always repaid thee

with ingratitude! But, now I love thee above all things, O my sovereign good, and I am sorry, with my whole heart, for having offended thee. I promise to die rather than ever offend thee more. Give me holy perseverance: have pity on me, and have pity also on all those holy souls who burn in that fire. O Mary, mother of God, assist them by thy powerful prayers.

Patcr. Ave. O Jesus, for mercy's sake, &c.

7. The pains of these blessed souls are increased by all the particular favors which they received from God, such as to have been made Christians, to have been born in a Catholic country, to have been allowed time for repentance, and to have obtained the pardon of their sins. All these favors make them feel more sensibly their past ingratitude to God.

But who, O Lord, more ungrateful than I have been? Thou hast waited for me with so much patience, thou hast often pardoned me with so much love, and I, after so many promises, have again offended thee! Ah, do not send me to hell. I am sorry, O infinite goodness for having offended thee: I promise to die, rather than ever offend thee more. Give

me noly perseverance. Have mercy on me, and have mercy also on those holy souls who burn in that fire. O Mary, mother of God, assist them by thy powerful prayers.

Pater. Ave. O Jesus, for mercy's sake, &c.

8. Another very severe torment of these blessed souls is caused by the thought that, during life God showed to them so many special mercies not shown others, and that, after they had by their sins compeiled him to hate them, and to condemn them to heil, he, through his pure mercy, had pardoned and saved them. Behold, O my God, I am one of those ungrateful souls who, after having received from thee such great favors, have despised thy love, and have forced thee to condemn me to hell. O infinite goodness, I now love thee above all things, and I am sorry, with my whole heart, for having offended thee. I promise thee to die rather than ever offend thee more. Give me holy perseverance; have mercy on me, and have mercy also on those holy souls who burn in that fire. O Mary, mother of God, assist them by thy powerful prayers.

Pater. Ave. O Jesus, for mercy's sake, &c.

9. Great, indeed, are all the pains of these

blessed souls: the fire, the tediousness, the darkness, the uncertainty of the time of their deliverance from that prison: but, of all the pains endured by those holy spouses, the greatest is caused by their being at a distance from their spouse, and by the privation of the sight of him.

O my God, how have I been able to live so many years at a distance from thee and bereft of thy grace? O infinite goodness, I love thee above all things, and I am sorry, with my whole heart for having offended thee. Give me holy perseverance, and do not permit me ever again to see myself thy enemy. Have mercy, I entreat thee, on these blessed souls; alleviate their pains, and abridge the time of their exile, by calling them soon to love thee face to face in paradise. O Mary, mother of God, assist them by thy powerful prayers: pray also for us, who are still in danger of being lost for ever.

Pater. Ave. O Jesus, for mercy's sake, &c.

PRAYERS TO JESUS CHRIST,

For these Souls, through the pains which he suffered during his passion.

O most sweet Jesus, through the bloody sweat which thou didst suffer in the garden of Gethsemani, have mercy on these blessed souls.

The People shall answer:

Have mercy on them, O Lord, have mercy on them.

O most sweet Jesus, through the pains which thou didst suffer during thy most cruel scourging, have mercy on them.

R. Have mercy on them, &c.

O most sweet Jesus, through the pains which thou didst suffer in thy most painful crowning with thorns, have mercy on them.

R. Have mercy on them, &c.

O most sweet Jesus, through the pains which thou didst suffer in carrying thy cross to Calvary, have mercy on them.

R. Have mercy on them, &c.

O most sweet Jesus, through the pains which thou didst suffer during thy most cruel crucifixion, have mercy on them, &c.

R. Have mercy on them, &c.

O most sweet Jesus, through the pains which thou didst suffer in thy most bitter agony on the cross, have mercy on them.

R. Have mercy on them, &c.

O most sweet Jesus, through that immense pain which thou didst suffer in breathing forth thy blessed soul, have mercy on them.

R. Have mercy on them, &c.

Let us recommend ourselves to the souls in purgatory, and say :

Blessed souls, we have prayed for you: we entreat you, who are so dear to God, and who are secure of never losing him, to pray for us miserable sinners, who are in danger of being damned, and of losing God for ever.

Let us Pray.

O God, the author of mercy, the lover of the salvation of mankind; we address thy clemency, in behalf of our brethren, relations, and benefactors, who are departed this life, that by the intercession of blessed Mary, ever a virgin, and of all the saints, thou wouldst receive them into the enjoyment of eternal happiness; through Christ our Lord. Amen.