

## St. Maximus and St. Felix

St. Felix, who had been ordained priest by Maximus, Bishop of Nola, was put in prison, and loaded with chains during the persecution of the Emperor Decius.

One night an angel from Heaven entered the prison, and, having awakened him from sleep, told him to go into the desert where Maximus had retired, and where he was suffering from cold and hunger, and to give him all the help he needed.

At first Felix thought that it was only a dream; but the angel having commanded him to rise, he obeyed, and immediately the chains that bound him fell to the ground, and the gates of the prison were opened, and he found himself free.

Then, through ways entirely unknown to him, under the guidance of the angel, he reached the desert, and even the very place where Maximus was.

He found him lying on the ground, almost without movement and without life, and appeared to be at the point of death.

Felix raised up the good Bishop from the ground, and tried to restore heat to his limbs. Then, seeing he had nothing to eat, he wondered where he could procure some food.

Looking around him, he saw hanging on a thorn-bush a large bunch of juicy grapes. Taking it, he pressed it, and poured the juice on the parched lips of Maximus, who immediately regained consciousness.

Smiling sweetly on Felix, he said to him: "You have been long in coming to visit me, my child. It is now a long time since God promised me that He would send you to assist me, and I was awaiting your coming with impatience, that you might bear me back to the midst of my poor flock, which I never should have left."

Then Felix, raising the old man upon his shoulders, set out for Nola, where his flock received him with delight and with great veneration and love.

(Life of St. Felix of Nola)

*The Catechism in Example* by Rev. D. Chisholm

### Please Pray for Our Deceased Members

**William J. Sullivan** (Chapter President – 50 years)  
St. Francis of Assisi -- Albany, NY

**Lena Zullo** (faithful -- 50 years)  
St. Francis of Assisi -- Albany, NY

**Pat Annarummo**  
Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Bristol, RI

**Janet Como**  
Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Bristol, RI

**Carmela DiSano**  
Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Bristol, RI

**Peter Paul Meier**  
Sacred Heart – Topeka, KS

**Jose Hernaiz**  
St. Joseph – Topeka, KS

**Austin Finley**  
St Anthony of Padua – East Northport, NY

**Efren R. Bacani**  
Our Lady of Lourdes -- Massapequa Park, NY

**Joseph Schutta** (25 years faithful member)  
Our Lady of Lourdes – Malverne, NY

**Robert Sabo**  
St. Mary's Help of Christians – Pueblo, CO

**Lucy Diaz**  
St. Francis Xavier -- Pueblo, CO

*Each month, a Mass is offered for deceased members listed in the monthly letter as above; and another Mass is offered for all past deceased members.*

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**My Dear Friend in Christ, Could you please help with the printing and mailing of these letters with a donation? Thank you. God bless you and Mary keep you.**

*Paul H. Monette*

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(Please send donations to: NAS, 414 Westberry Dr. Rapid City, SD 57702)



Communion Thanksgiving: Jesus sits in our soul as on a throne of grace. St. Alphonsus di Liguori

## NAS Letter December 2021

... in His Presence

### Jesus Enlightens the World and Glorifies God

#### Dark Night of Sin:

Before the coming of the Messiah the world was buried in a dark night of ignorance and sins. The true God was hardly known, save in one single corner of the earth, that is to say, in Judea alone: *In Judea God is known.* (Ps. lxxv. 2) But everywhere else men adored as gods: devils, beasts, and stones.

Everywhere there reigned the night of sin, which blinds souls, and fills them with vices, and hides from them the sight of the miserable state in which they are living, as enemies of God and condemned to hell: *Thou hast appointed darkness, and it is night; in it shall all the beasts of the wood go about.* (Ps. ciii. 20)

#### Light Is Risen:

From this darkness Jesus came to deliver the world: *To them that dwelt in the region of the shadow of death, light is risen.* (Isa. ix. 2)

He delivered it from idolatry by making known to them the light of the true God; and He delivered them from sin by the light of His doctrine and of His divine example: *For this purpose the Son of God appeared that He*

*Please take and keep this letter and reflect on its contents during the month in your visits to the Blessed Sacrament and see that your heart and mind will open to His grace into knowledge and love of God, Our Lord, Jesus Christ.*

might destroy the works of the devil. (1 John, iii. 8)

### **Jesus -- The New Child:**

The prophet Jeremias foretold that God should create a new child to be the Redeemer of men: *The Lord hath created a new thing upon the earth.* This new "thing" was Jesus Christ.

He is the Son of God, who is the object of the love of all the saints in paradise, and is the love of the Father Himself, Who thus speaks of Him: *This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.* (Matt. xvii. 5)

### **Glorious Beginnings:**

And this Son is He who made Himself man. A new child, because He has given more glory and honor to God in the first moment of His creation than all the angels and saints together have given Him, or shall give Him for all eternity.

And therefore did the angels at the birth of Jesus sing, *Glory to God in the highest.* (Luke, ii. 14)

The child Jesus has rendered more glory to God than all the sins of men have deprived Him of.

### **All Through Jesus to the Father:**

Let us therefore, poor sinners, take courage; let us offer to the eternal Father this Infant; let us present to Him the tears, the obedience, the humility, the death, and the merits of Jesus Christ, and we shall make compensation to God for all the dishonor that we have caused Him by our offences.

### ***Affections and Prayers:***

#### **Fallen human nature:**

My eternal God, I have dishonored Thee by so often preferring my will to Thine, and my vile and miserable pleasures to Thy holy grace.

#### **Jesus Our Hope:**

What hope of pardon would there be for me, if Thou hadst not given me Jesus Christ on purpose that He might be our hope?

#### **Jesus Appeases The Father:**

*He is a propitiation for our sins.* (1 John, ii. 2) Yes; for Jesus Christ, in sacrificing His life in satisfaction for the injuries we have done Thee, has given Thee more honor than we have dishonor by our sins.

#### **Repentance:**

Receive me, therefore, O my Father, for the love of Jesus Christ. I repent, O infinite Goodness, of having offended Thee: Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before Thee: *I am not worthy to be called Thy son.* (Luke, xv. 21)

#### **Contrition:**

Receive an ungrateful son, who once forsook Thee, but now returns, resolved to desire to love Thee.

Yes, my Father, I love Thee, and will always love Thee.

#### **Resolve:**

O my Father, now that I know the love that Thou hast borne me, and the patience Thou hast shown me for so many years, I trust no longer to live without loving Thee.

#### **Holy Desires:**

Give me a great love that may make me constantly lament the displeasure I have given Thee, who art so good a Father; cause me ever to burn with love towards Thee, who art so loving a Father. My Father, I love Thee!

#### **Invoke Our Mother, Mary:**

O Mary! God is my Father, and thou art my mother. Thou canst do all things with God; help me; obtain for me holy perseverance and his holy love. The Incarnation, Birth and Infancy of Jesus Christ

### **Of God's Providence**

You often hear, my child, about the providence of God. This means that God has for each one of His children a fatherly care, and watches over them with great love. Everything that happens to us is for our good, although sometimes we may not perceive it. **St. Paul** says: "To those who love God all things are heaped together unto good."

### **St. Paul, the First Hermit, and St. Antony**

**St. Paul**, who is distinguished by the title of "the First Hermit," desirous of escaping from the persecutions of Decius, fled into the desert of Upper Thebaides, and dwelt there in solitude with God.

Until the fifty-third year of his age that is to say, during thirty years he supported himself on the wild herbs that grew in the desert and with the fruit of the palm-trees; but from that time God Himself, in a miraculous way, undertook the temporal care of His servant. Every day He sent a crow with half a loaf of bread, which He laid at the feet of the holy man. This He did for the long period of sixty years.

Now, at the end of that time it happened that **St. Antony**, also a hermit in a desert at some distance, received an order from God to go forth in search of the "Father of the Hermits," that he might receive his blessing before he died. The two Saints at once recognized each other as if they had known each other for years, and saluted one another by their names; and while they were sitting together speaking of heavenly things and of the happiness of having left all things to follow Christ, a crow appeared before them.

It carried in its beak this time not a half-loaf, as it usually brought, but a whole one; and as **St. Antony**, who knew nothing of the wonderful goodness of God in furnishing His servant with food for so many years past, expressed his astonishment at what he saw, **St. Paul** said to him: "During the last sixty years God Himself has provided for me each day my daily support. Today, because you are with me, He has sent a double portion.

Oh, my brother, let us together bless Him and glorify Him for His infinite goodness in thus taking care of those who serve Him."

(Life of St. Paul, First Hermit)