

“Thy Will Be Done, O Lord.”

Every time St. Gertrude said the Lord's Prayer she said this third petition, “Thy will be done,” with the greatest fervor. Sometimes she would say it over and over again, because every time she did so she felt her heart all on fire with the love of God.

One day, as she was saying it in this way, Our Lord Himself appeared to her in a visible manner. In His right hand He seemed to carry health, and in His left hand sickness. He said to her: “Gertrude, my daughter, which of the two do you wish Me to give you health or sickness?”

Did she choose health? No. Then was it sickness? No. She only said: “O my God, Thy will, not mine, be done.”

This answer was so pleasing to Our Lord that He gave her, even in this world, many special marks of His love. One day He appeared to a holy nun of the same convent called Mechtildes. He was seated on a beautiful throne, with St. Gertrude at His side. She was gazing with rapture on His sacred countenance, and He also seemed to be looking on her with eyes beaming with love.

Mechtildes then understood that this great favor had been given to her because she was always so submissive to His blessed will.

St. Vincent de Paul

When St. Vincent was growing old, he had most acute pains to suffer. His legs were swollen to such an extent that, whenever he tried to walk, he suffered great pain.

One day when they were dressing his sores, one of the Fathers who was standing near him said: “O my dear Father, what cruel agony you must suffer!”

The Saint answered: “What is that you say? How can you say that anything is cruel which God is pleased to send? Could anything be bad enough for me who am such a great sinner? May God forgive you, dear sir, for saying such a thing! That is not the way we should speak of what our dear Lord Jesus sends us.

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Is it not but just that we should suffer everything God wants us to suffer? for we do not belong to ourselves, but to Him, and therefore He has a right to treat us as He thinks proper.”

Another time the same priest said to him: “My Father, I think your pains seem to be increasing every day.”

“Ah, yes; it is quite true. From the crown of my head to the soles of my feet I suffer much very much. But, alas! what an account I will have to give to God when I die, for having made such little use of these many and great graces !”

The Catechism in Example by Rev. D. Chisholm

Please Pray for Our Deceased Members

Theresa DiLegge

Our Lady of Mercy -- Hicksville, NY

Kenneth Horr

(NAS Co-founder in 1968)

St. Anthony of Padua -- East Northport L.I., NY

Charles “Chuck” Bruns

(Member and past President 30+ years)

St. Luke's – Schenectady, New York

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

NAS Letter January 2022

... in His Presence

Perfect Resignation to the Divine Will

My meat is to do His will. (John, iv. 34) So said Jesus Christ, speaking of Himself. In this mortal life, meat is that which preserves our life; and, therefore, our Lord said that it was His meat to do the will of the Father. This also ought to be the meat of our souls: *Life is in His will.* (Ps. xxix. 6) Our life consists in doing the divine will; he that does not fulfil it is dead.

The wise man writes: *They that are faithful in love shall rest in Him.* (Wis. iii. 9)

Unfaithful: They who are little faithful in loving God will desire that He should agree with them, that He should conform Himself to their pleasure, and do whatever they desire;

Faithful In Love With God: but they who love God agree with Him, and unite their wills to His will, and are satisfied with everything that God does with them, and with all their circumstances; and in every adversity that afflicts them, whether sickness, dishonor, weariness, loss of property or of kindred, they ever have on their lips and in their heart these words, “Thy will be done,” which are the constant expression of saints.

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.

[1]

Unite The Will to God: *God only desires that which is best for us, which is our sanctification.* (1 Thess. iv. 3) Let us take care, therefore, to quiet our own will, uniting it ever to the will of God; and thus we shall be able, also, to quiet our intellect, recollecting that **everything that God does is the best thing that can befall us.**

Suffering Patiently: Whoever does not this will never find true peace. All the perfection that can be attained in this world, which is a place of purification, and consequently a place of pains and troubles, consists in **suffering patiently** those things that are opposed to our self-love; and, in order to suffer with patience, there is **no more efficacious means than a willingness to suffer, in order to do the will of God.** *Submit thyself, then, to Him, and be at peace.* (Job, xxii. 21)

Always At Peace: He that agrees with the Divine Will in everything is **always at peace**, and nothing that happens to him can make him miserable. *It will not make the just man sad, whatever shall befall him.* (Prov. xii. 21) But why is the just man never miserable under any circumstances? Because he knows well that **whatever happens in the world, happens through the will of God.**

Crosses → Joy: The Divine Will draws out all the thorns and bitterness of the tribulations that come upon us in this world. The hymn which speaks of the Divine Will thus sings: "Thou changest crosses into joys; Thou makest even death to be sweet; he that can unite himself to Thee knows neither cross nor fear. Oh, how worthy art Thou of love, O Thou will of God!"

All Our Cares → Hands Of God: Behold the excellent counsel of **St. Peter**, in order to find a perfect peace in the midst of the toils of this present life, *Casting all your care upon Him; for He has care for you.* (1 Peter, v. 7) And if it is God who thus gives thought for our good, why should we weary ourselves with so many anxieties, as if

our happiness depended on our own cares, and not rather **abandon ourselves into the hands of God**, upon Whom all depends? *Cast thy care upon the Lord, says David, and He shall nourish thee.* (Ps. liv. 23)

Eternal Salvation: Let us strive to obey God in everything He commands us and advises us, and then let us leave to Him the care of our salvation, and He will take care to give us all the means that are necessary, in order that we may be saved: *Thy soul shall be saved, because thou hast had confidence in Me.* (Jer. xxxix. 18) **Whosoever places his whole confidence in God is sure of eternal salvation.**

Affections:

Receive, O God of my soul! receive the sacrifice of my whole will and my whole liberty. I see that I have deserved that Thou shouldst turn Thy back upon me, and refuse this gift of mine, so often have I been unfaithful to Thee; but I learn that Thou dost again command me to love Thee with all my heart, and, therefore, I am sure Thou wilt receive it. I resign myself, then, wholly to Thy will; make me to know what Thou wilt, that I may be able to accomplish it all. Make me love Thee, and then dispose of me and all my affairs as it pleases Thee. I am in Thy hands; do what Thou knowest to be most expedient for my eternal salvation; while I declare that I desire Thee alone, and nothing more.

O mother of God! do thou obtain for me the gift of holy perseverance.

The way of Salvation and Perfection by St. Alphonsus de Liguori

The Surrender Novena

Why do you confuse yourselves by worrying? Leave the care of your affairs to Me and everything will be peaceful. I say to you in truth that every act of true, blind, complete surrender to Me produces the effect that you desire and resolves all difficult situations.

O Jesus, I surrender myself to you, take care of everything! (10 times)

Day 1 of the *Surrender Novena*
Given by Jesus to Fr. Dolindo Ruotolo

Examples on Doing the Will of God

Our Lord said of **David** that he was a man according to His Heart. And what was the secret of this great sanctity? "Because," He said, "he will do My will in everything."

St. Mary Magdalene de Pazzi was so attached to this, that frequently she would say that she would not do anything, not even the most insignificant thing as, for example, to go from one room to another, if she knew it to be contrary to the will of God; neither would she ever stop doing anything which she believed to be the will of God for her. And if she were to begin something and in the midst of doing it think it to be contrary to God's will, in that very instant she would stop it, even if it should cost her her life.

To be a servant of God means to have a great charity toward one's neighbor and an unshakable resolution to follow the Divine Will in all things, trusting in God with simplicity and humility, bearing with one's defects and patiently tolerating the imperfections of others St. Francis de Sales

One day, while **St. Gertrude** was bemoaning the fact that every once in a while she still committed a certain small defect, she begged Our Lord to liberate her from it. He, however, answered her: "Would you then deprive Me of a great honor and yourself of a great reward? Know you, that as often as one recognizes his weakness and resolves to overcome it in the future, he gains a great reward for himself. And each time he refrains from falling for love of Me, he gives Me as great an honor as a good soldier gives to his captain when he courageously resisted his enemies in battle, overcoming them all, and casting them to the ground with his own arm.