

Let us always address her in the words of **St. John Damascene**: "O Blessed Mother of God, open the gate of mercy to us, for you are the salvation of the human race." O Mother of God, open the door of your compassion to us by always praying for us; your prayers are the salvation of all mankind! *Glories of Mary* by St. Alphonsus

Blessed Alphonsus Rodriguez of The Society of Jesus

Blessed Alphonsus Rodriguez, a lay-brother of the Society of Jesus, was remarkable for his perseverance in prayer to Mary.

The moment he rose from his sleep he knelt humbly before an image of Mary, and recited most devoutly her litany, to place himself under her special protection during the day. All his leisure moments he devoted to the recital of the Rosary, and at each hour of the day he implored Mary's help by a particular invocation.

When he sat down to table, he besought her to think of the poor souls in Purgatory, as he felt great compassion for them, and towards their consolation he offered all the little mortifications which he imposed on himself during his meals. Whenever he thought of their sufferings, his eyes were moistened with tears, and he often neglected the food before him; and it was frequently necessary for the rector to desire him to eat like the rest.

When he was obliged to leave the house, even should it be in obedience to the orders of his Superiors, he besought Our Lord rather to put an end to his life at once than to suffer him to offend Him even in the least particular; and in order to obtain the support of the Blessed Virgin, he was in the habit of saying often to her this prayer: "O Mary, show me that thou art my Mother."

The Catechism in Example by Rev. Chisholm

Please Pray for Our Deceased Members

Marilyn Hagan died 3/25/21
Saint Andrew the Apostle -- Drexel Hill, PA

Helen Schindler died 11/8/21
Saint Andrew the Apostle -- Drexel Hill, PA

James Duffy died 2/28/22
Saint Andrew the Apostle -- Drexel Hill, PA

Richard G. Sheeran
Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception -- Syracuse NY

Mary Kapitan
St. Mathias – Crown Point, IN

Patrick Kieke
St. Mary Help of Christians -- St. Augusta, MN

Marcella Hiemenz
St. Mary Help of Christians -- St. Augusta, MN

Edward Hiemenz
Charter Member (58 years)
St. Mary Help of Christians -- St. Augusta, MN

Morris "Moe" Demsko
St. Margaret – Reading, PA

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

Paul H. Monette (605) 342-2294

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

**NAS Letter
August
2022**

... in His Presence

**Happy is He who Desires
Nothing but God**

Desire God Only:

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (Matt- v. 3.) By "the poor in spirit" is meant those who are poor in earthly desires, and desire nothing but God.

Rich in Spiritual Blessings:

These are poor in desires, but not without affection, because they live contented even in this life; and, therefore, the Lord does not say, "Theirs will be the kingdom of heaven," but "theirs is," because even in this life they are **rich in spiritual blessings** which they receive from God; and thus, however poor they are in temporal goods, they live content with their condition,

Always Poor and Discontented:

They are different from the rich in earthly desires, who, in the present life, whatever riches they possess, are always poor, and live discontented; for the good things of this life do not satisfy our thirst, however much they are increased; wherefore, these persons are never contented, never attaining to the acquisition of what they desire.

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.

Jesus Our Example in Poverty:

In order to enrich us with true riches, Jesus Christ chose to be a poor man, as the Apostle writes, *For your sakes He became poor, that by His poverty ye might become rich.* (2 Cor. viii. 9) He chose to be poor in order to teach us by **His example to despise earthly blessings**; and thus to **enrich us with heavenly blessing**, which are infinitely more precious, and which last forever. Wherefore He declared that whoever did not renounce every species of attachment to this earth could not be His true disciple.

. . . Our Whole Heart:

Happy he who desires nothing but God, and can say, with St. **Paulinus**, "Let the rich have their riches, kings their kingdoms; Christ is my wealth and my kingdom."

Full Of Earth:

Let us rest assured that **God alone can content us**, but He does not fully content any but **those souls which love Him with a whole heart**. And what place can the love of God find in a heart that is full of this earth? Such people may go often to Communion, and pay visits to the Blessed Sacrament; but, because this earth is in their hearts, God cannot wholly possess them, and enrich them as He would.

Empty The Heart:

Many souls lament that in their meditations and Communions, and in their other most devout exercises, they do not find God. To such St. **Teresa** said, "Detach thy heart from all creatures, and thou shalt find God." Let us strip ourselves of every affection that tends to earthly things, **and especially of our own will**; let us give to God our whole will, without reserve, and say to Him, "Lord, do Thou dispose of me, and of all I have, as Thou wilt; I desire nothing but what Thou desirest, and I know that what Thou wilt is the best for

me. Grant me, then, that I may ever love Thee, and I desire nothing more.

Complete Detachment and We Will Find God:

The only means for detaching ourselves from creatures is to acquire a great love for God. If the love of God does not go so far as to obtain the **mastery over our own will**, we shall never attain to being saints. The means for acquiring this ruling love is **devout prayer**. Let us constantly pray to God to give us His love that we may thus find ourselves detached from every created thing. Divine love is a thief, which, in a holy way, robs us of all earthly affections, and causes us to say, "What other thing do I desire but Thee alone, O God of my heart!"

Love Conquers everything:

Love is strong as death, (Cant. viii. 6) This means that as there is no power that resists death, so there is nothing, even of things most invincible that can resist the love of God. **Love conquers everything**. With the love of God the martyrs conquered the fiercest torments and the most agonizing deaths.

God Alone:

Oh, happy indeed is he who can say with David, *What have I in heaven, and what have I desired upon earth, but Thee, O God of my heart, and my portion forever!* What else can I desire in this life and in eternity, but Thee alone, O my God? Let others find the good things they choose; be Thou, O God of my heart, my only good; be Thou all my peace.

The Way of Salvation and of Perfection by St. Alphonsus

Mary, Our Most Kind Mother Watches Over Us

Jesus Graciously Yields to His Mother:

Theophilus of Alexandria tells us that Jesus is very much pleased whenever Mary intercedes with Him for us. "Yielding, as it were, to the prayers of Mary, He considers all the graces which He gives us as granted not so much to us, as to His Blessed Mother." Notice the words

"Yielding, as it were, to the prayers of Mary." St. **Germanus** testifies that Jesus cannot do otherwise than graciously acquiesce to Mary's wishes, desiring as He does to obey her as His true Mother. Therefore the saint says: "The prayers of this Mother have a certain authority over Christ because by means of them she obtains pardon for even the most hardened sinners who recommend themselves to her." And he concludes: "It is not possible for you not to be heard, for in all things God acts toward you as His true and spotless Mother."

Marriage Feast of Cana:

This is fully confirmed, observes St. **John Chrysostom**, by what took place at the marriage feast of Cana when Mary asked her Son to replenish the wine which had given out: *They have no wine.* Jesus answered: *What wouldst thou have me do, woman? My hour has not yet come* (JD. 2:3-4). Both **Chrysostom** and Theophylact explain that the time for miracles had not yet come. Yet, as the former stresses, "the Savior, in spite of this answer, and in order to obey His Mother, performed the miracle that she asked for by converting the water into wine."

Throne of Grace:

Let us therefore with confidence go to the throne of grace, the Apostle exhorts us, *that we may obtain mercy, and find grace in seasonable aid* (Heb. 4:16). "The throne of grace is the Blessed Virgin," says St. **Albert the Great**. So if we want graces, let us go to the throne of grace, which is Mary. Let us go with the conviction that we shall be heard. For Mary will intercede for us and she will obtain from her Son whatever she asks. "Let us ask for grace," says St. **Bernard**, "and let us ask for it through Mary," trusting in what the Blessed Virgin herself told St. **Mechtilde**, namely, that the Holy Spirit, in filling her with all His sweetness, has made her so dear to God that anyone who asks for graces through her intercession is certain of obtaining them.