

She then earnestly prayed to God not to delay long, but to send her at once the trials He had ordained for her to suffer, that she might the sooner obtain her crown.

God heard her prayer. For some little time she had to endure most acute pains, which were augmented by the cruel treatment of some of those who attended her; but the thought that every moment was bringing her nearer to the glory she so much desired gave her courage.

Promised Crown Completed:

At length the angel returned, according to his promise. In his hands he held the same crown, but this time it was finished. Not long after this she died, and her pure soul ascended at once to Heaven, where it was crowned with glory, in recompense for the trials and sufferings of this life borne so patiently for the love of God.

(Life of St. Lidvina April 16.)

God is preparing a crown of glory for us also; but we cannot get it till we have won it by fulfilling our duty to God during our short time of trial on earth.

The Way To Purchase Heaven

St. Bernardine was one day, according to the tales of his Order, passing along the streets of Siena collecting alms for his monastery. He was accompanied by one of his brethren.

Some wicked men, who met the good religious, took up stones and threw them at them, wounding them on the feet. His companion was very much annoyed at this cruel treatment, and asked the Saint to speak to them so that they might go away.

But he gaily answered: " Oh no, my brother; let them torment us as long as they please; they are teaching us how to practice the great virtue of meekness, and are giving us an opportunity of **gaining much merit for the Kingdom of Heaven by our patience.**

The Catechism in Example by Rev. D. Chisholm

Please Pray for Our Deceased Members

Andrew Milewski – (65 + years)
St. Michael - Gastonia, NC

Paul White – (over 50 years member)
Holy Family – Endwell, NY

Adeline Laudenschach – (20 + years)
St. Mary Help of Christians – St. Augusta, MN

Bob HaverKorn
Sacred Heart – Topeka, KS

Michael R. Martinez
Sacred Heart Cathedral -- Pueblo, CO

Elefonso C. Manzanares
St. Paul the Apostle -- Pueblo, CO

Linda Bartolo
St. Joseph Parish -- Pueblo, CO

Gertrude Miller
Holy Family -- Pueblo, CO

Josephine Mendoza
Holy Family -- Pueblo, CO

Sadie Montelongo
Our Lady of Mt. Cannel -- 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 February 2023

... in His Presence

On The Mercy of God

Our Lord Totally Removes Remembrance of Our Offences: God so pardons our sins that He blots out even the remembrance of the greatest outrage. God does not act as men do. He does not grant half a pardon. When any one has betrayed our trust, or has mortally offended us howsoever we may wish to become reconciled to the offender, or may cherish an earnest desire to forgive, and strive in our heart to do so nevertheless, we find it difficult to place the same confidence in him, or to treat him with the same affection as before; for there remains in the corner of our heart a tinge of bitterness from time to time, or when we call to mind what he has done to us. Our merciful Lord is not subject to this weakness.

Beyond Forgiveness! Oh! would that all sinners who sincerely repent of their past offences could see in His heart the feelings He has for them; no resentment, no bitterness there! and how thoroughly He forgives them. God does not stop there. Not content with forgetting our trespasses,

1. He gives us back the merit of those good deeds which we had lost by losing His grace;

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.

2. He restores to us those merits and that with interest, and

3. He places us a position more advantageous than that in which we were when we fell away from Him.

Overwhelmed over God's Relentless Goodness:

Example – St. Mary Magdalen: I am not at all astonished that **St. Mary Magdalen** had not, even after thirty years had elapsed, ceased to weep for her sins, although she could not doubt but they had been remitted.

Example – St. Peter: I am not surprised that St. Peter should have been inconsolable even unto death for having failed in his fidelity to so good a Master, notwithstanding the certainty he had of being forgiven.

Our cause for Grief: Can one be mindful that so good a Master has been offended without having one's heart torn with grief?

Can we, who have so coolly offended Him without any reason, having, on the contrary, **a thousand reasons to love Him**, we, who have for so long a time abused His love, His patience, His blessings, His mercy, can we, I say, recollect this without dying of regret and repentance?

O My Lord, Thank You for Your Goodness: It is that thought which redoubles my grief at having sinned against a God Who has so readily forgiven me, Who has returned good for evil, and all kinds of blessings in return for every kind of evil. Can it be that I shall ever forget the ingratitude which He has so soon forgotten? that I should forgive my own infidelities, which He not only has pardoned, but has urged me to accept His forgiveness many a time? – a God who does not love me less today, and who loves me even more now than before I had offended Him?

St. Claude de la Colombière
Half Hour with the Servants of God

St. Lidvina's Crown

St. Lidvina was born in Holland about the end of the fourteenth century. When she was a little girl she was very beautiful. But God, Who foresaw that her beauty might be dangerous to her, took it from her, by permitting an accident to happen to her.

One day, when she was fifteen years old, she was walking on the ice which covered a pond not far from her father's house. Someone who was amusing himself by sliding, came against her with great force, and she fell heavily on the ice. When they took her home they discovered that some of her bones were broken, and that she had suffered other injuries.

Remedies were applied, but without effect; from that day till the end of her life she was never able to stand upright, and could scarcely walk. The fresh color left her cheeks, and she became pale and thin.

When people saw the sad state to which she was now reduced, they said it was a great misfortune; but her Father in Heaven, Who loved her dearly, knew that this was one of the richest graces He could have given His beloved child.

Lidvina loved God. She had loved Him when she was in health, and now, when He had sent her this terrible affliction, she loved Him even more. She could not have had the courage to have asked Him to send her these sufferings, but since He had done so, she said from the bottom of her heart: "O my God, Thy holy will be done."

Whenever God Sends us a cross, He sends us also the grace to carry it. So Lidvina was very happy under her heavy cross.

Vision of Heaven:

One day she was brought by her angel guardian in spirit into Paradise. God wanted to show her what He would one day give her there if she would suffer her trials on earth patiently to the end.

She saw the Saints there in all their glory, each one according to the good works he had done on earth, and she heard the ravishing music of their canticles.

Some of the holy martyrs who had suffered the most terrible torments for the love of God spoke to her, and pointed out to her the bright crown of glory God had given them as their reward.

"Let our example," they said, "encourage you to suffer as we did, and be faithful unto death as we were. You have to suffer much from the afflictions with which God has visited you, but courage! They will soon be at an end, and then the crown of glory will be given you.

Her Desire for Heaven Increased:

When the Saint returned to herself, the thought of this beautiful vision filled her with greater courage; she even desired Our Lord to send her greater afflictions on earth, that her glory might be greater in Heaven.

From the time she had that vision, everything in this world had no pleasure for her. "O my dear Father," she used to pray, "When will You come and take me home to Heaven?"

Look at us now, how happy we are! Where are now those sufferings we endured for the love of Jesus Christ? They are all past: they lasted only a few moments, then were over, and what did God give us in return for them? Look and see; behold the perfect happiness we enjoy in the Kingdom of our God, which will never be taken from us."

Another Vision:

God was pleased to grant her another vision. She seemed to see one of the heavenly spirits at her side, with a beautiful crown of roses in his hand. But it did not seem quite finished: here and there there seemed to be a few roses wanting to make it complete.

Increased Hope, Prayer, Suffering:

The angel said to her: "This crown is for you, but I cannot give it to you till it is completed; you have yet to suffer a few things for the love of God, and when you have accomplished this it will be ready, and I will come again and give it to you."