

### Mary my Mother:

Happy the man, says **Mary**, watching daily at my gates, waiting at my doorposts (Prov. 8:34). Happy the man that hears my voice and is always ready to come to the doors of my mercy for light and help.

**Mary** will take care of such a man. **Mary** will get for him the light and strength to abandon sin and walk the way of virtue.

*The Glories of Mary* by St. Alphonsus de Liguori

### **Perseverance and the Rosary**

The daughter of a certain prince had entered a monastery, where the discipline was so relaxed, that, although she was a young person of good dispositions, she advanced but little in virtue.

By the advice of a good confessor, she began to say the Rosary with the mysteries, and became so changed that she was an example to all.

The other religious, taking offence at her for withdrawing from them, attacked her on all sides, to induce her to abandon her newly-begun way of life.

One day while she was repeating the Rosary, and praying **Mary** to assist her in that persecution, she saw a letter fall from above.

On the outside were written these words: "Mary, mother of God, to her daughter Jane, greetings;" and within: "My dear child, continue to say my Rosary; withdraw from conversation with those who do not help you to live well; beware of idleness and vanity; take from your cell these two superfluous things, and I will be your protectress with God."

The abbot of that monastery soon after visited it, and attempted to reform it, but he did not succeed; and one day he saw a great number of demons entering the cells of all

the nuns except that of Jane, for the heavenly mother, before whose image he saw her praying, banished the devils from approaching Jane

When he heard from her of the devotion of the Rosary which she practiced, and the letter she had received, he ordered all the others to repeat it, and it is related that this monastery became a paradise.

*Stories of Our Lady* by St. Alphonsus de Liguori

### *Please Pray for Our Deceased Members*

#### **Eugene Benedict**

St. Paul the Apostle -- Pueblo, CO

#### **Frances Vaughn**

Holy Family -- Pueblo, CO

#### **Theresa Erjavec**

St. Mary Help of Christians -- Pueblo, CO

#### **Joe Medina**

Holy Family -- Pueblo, CO

#### **Stanley Zurakowski**

Past administrator

St. John of Rochester -- Fairport, NY

*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.*

#### **The Nocturnal Adoration Society**

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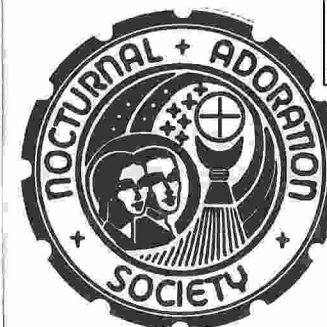
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My Dear Friend in Christ. Could you please help with the printing and mailing of these letters with a donation? Thank you. God bless you and Mary keep you.

*Paul H. Monette*

**Paul H. Monette (605) 342-2294**

(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  
March  
2023**

**... in His Presence**

### **Model of Perfection Prayer and the Cross**

(St. John Chrysostom in his sermon on the holiness of St. John the Baptist explains beautifully on a few points concerning our path to perfection.)

Truly great was **St. John the Baptist**, who dwelt in the desert as though in heaven, showing himself a model of true wisdom. From there he came to the city, as an angel from heaven; an athlete of every virtue, crowned before the world; a philosopher of the philosophy that is worthy of heaven.

#### **Self-Denial:**

If he who was so pure, and brighter than the heavens, who was above all the prophets, and whom none greater was born among men; who had such faith, if he lived so austere, wholly rejecting every delight, what excuse have we, who after so many favors, though laden with countless faults, can show not the least part of his penance, but give ourselves to excess in drinking and eating, softening ourselves by every means, and making ourselves an easy prey for the devil?

#### **Perseverance in Prayer:**

Let us, putting away all excess, and drinking the healthy cup of moderation, live

*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.*

in a manner that is becoming and temperate; and let us give ourselves in earnest to prayer.

And if we do not receive that for which we pray, let us persevere that we may receive it. And if we do receive it, let us persevere the more, because we have received.

For it is not His Will to withhold the gift we ask for, but, in His wisdom, to encourage our perseverance by delaying it.

#### God Draws Us to Himself:

So He delays the answer to our prayers, and even permits us to **fall into temptation**, so that we may then turn to Him, and there remain with Him.

Thus do loving fathers and mothers of children act; when they see their little ones go from them to play with others of their years, they cause their servants to pretend to frighten them, so that the children may fly back to the maternal-arms.

So oftentimes does God threaten us, not that He may inflict evils upon us, **but to draw us to Himself**. And when we return to Him, immediately He banishes our fear; for were we to feel the same security in temptations as when at peace, then there would be no need for us to be tempted.

#### Cross: Implement of Love:

But why do I speak of us? For even holy men for this purpose were grievously tried: It is good for me that thou hast humbled me (Ps. cxviii. 71). And He Himself has said to the Apostles: *In the world you shall have distress* (Jn. xvi. 33). And Paul implies the same thing, when he says: *There was given me a sting of my flesh, an angel of Satan to buffet me* (II. Cor. xii. 7); who though he had prayed to be delivered from temptation, yet was his prayer not answered, because **from his very temptation he drew great profit**.

#### Examples:

And if we consider the whole life of **David**

we shall find, that in the midst of dangers he was still greater; and not he alone, but all like unto him. **Job** also for this same cause shines forth; so likewise **Joseph** shone out yet more. **Jacob** too, and his father, and his father's father, and all have been great, and have been crowned; only by trials and tribulation have they been proved and received their crowns.

#### Manner to Bear Our Crosses:

Since we know all these things, Let us, in the words of Wisdom, *make not haste in the time of clouds* (Eccclus. ii. 2), but let us school ourselves to one thing only, that we may bear all things **with courage**, and **neither inquire too curiously, nor search too sharply**, into that which may befall us. For to know at what time our hardships will come to an end belongs only to God, Who permits them to happen.

#### . . . with Gratitude:

It is for us to **bear our afflictions** and **give thanks** that is the duty of trustfulness. And if we do this, every good thing will follow. That they may follow, that we may become **more trusting**, that we may come to shine above, let us accept whatever be laid upon us; **giving thanks** always to Him Who knows better than we know, what is good for us, and Who loves us more than our own parents love us.

#### Joy of the Cross:

And let these thoughts be at all times as it were a melody in our hearts, in whatsoever tribulations, so that we may rise above grieving, and give praise unto God, Who arranges all things within all things for our benefit. Thus shall we overcome all dangers and come to our imperishable crown, to which may we all alike attain, by the grace and mercy of Our Lord Jesus Christ, to

Whom, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, be glory and empire and honor, now and for ever and ever, Amen. (*Thank You Jesus*)

*Sunday Sermons of the Great Fathers -- Sermon by St. John Chrysostom*

## Devotion to Mary and Perseverance

### Mary is our life because she obtains perseverance for us:

**Final Perseverance** is so great a gift of God that, as the Council of Trent has declared, it is entirely gratuitous on His part, and we cannot merit it. According to **St. Augustine**, those who ask for **perseverance** will obtain it. And according to Suarez, they will infallibly obtain it if they ask for it diligently till the end of their lives. **St. Robert Bellarmine** writes: "You must ask for **perseverance** every day, in order to obtain it every day."

All graces given us by God come through Mary's hands, then it is also true that only through the help of **Mary** are we able to hope for and obtain the greatest grace of all, the **grace of final perseverance**. We will certainly obtain it if we constantly and confidently ask it of **Mary**.

### Necessity of Devotion to Mary Explained:

It was perfectly natural for **St. Germanus** to call **Mary** the "breath of Christians." Just as the body cannot live without breathing, so the soul cannot live without having recourse to **Mary**, through whom the life of grace is acquired and preserved in us. Here are the saint's own words: "As breathing is not only a sign of life, but also its very cause, so **Mary's** name, ever on the lips of God's servants, not only is a sign that they really live, but actually causes that life and gives them every help they need to sustain it."