

St. Frances of Rome

Although **St. Frances of Rome** devoted her life to prayer and penance and good works, she never allowed anything to prevent her fulfilling her duties to her husband: she always obeyed his slightest wish, and never murmured at any interruption which he might cause her.

One day he sent for her when she was reciting the office of the Blessed Virgin. She went to him instantly, did what he required, and returned to her prayers. But soon another summons came, then another, and another. Four different times was she disturbed, and always for trifling reasons; but she obeyed with perfect good humor, and returned to her office without having her peace of mind broken.

On taking up her book for the last time, she was surprised to see the words she had four times begun and left unfinished written in letters of gold; and her angel guardian whispered in her ear: "It is in this way that God rewards the virtue of perfect obedience." The golden letters remained in her book as long as she lived.

St. Benedict and the Little Boy Maurus

One day a monk named Placidus went to draw water from a lake near the monastery. In doing so, he fell into the lake and disappeared. **St. Benedict**, from his cell, saw the danger, and, calling the boy Maurus to his side, said to him: "Make haste; run to the lake, for Placidus has fallen into it. Go and save him."

The obedient boy knelt for the Abbot's blessing, and, thinking only of fulfilling the order he had received, ran to the lake and on to the water as if it had been solid ground, and, taking Placidus by the hair,

brought him safely to the bank. It was then only that he observed that he had been walking on the water, and he was filled with amazement at it.

It was in this way that God rewarded him for his prompt obedience.

Catechism in Examples by Rev. D. Chisholm

Please Pray for Our Deceased Members

James Levens

St. Anthony – East Northport, NY

Joe Amorin

Our Lady of Lourdes -- Massapequa Park, NY

John McGowna

St. Joseph -- Garden City, NY

Joseph Ferrick

St. Anne – Garden City, NY

James Reilly (> 35 years)

Assumption of the BVM – Center Reach, NY

Rosemary O'Connor (> 35 years)

Assumption of the BVM – Center Reach, 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.

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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
April
2023

... in His Presence

Jesus Comes to Us as Servant

Redeemer from Birth: From His tenderest childhood, the Redeemer, by becoming a **servant**, was eager to begin and wrench from the devil that dominion which he had over man, according to the prophecy of Isaias: *Call his name, hasten to take away the spoils: Make haste to take away the prey.* (Isa. viii. 3) "That is," as **St. Jerome** explains it, "suffer the devil to reign no longer." Behold Jesus, scarcely born, says the **Venerable Bede**, before He assumes the form and office of a **servant**, in order to gain us freedom from the slavery of hell, He causes Himself to be enrolled as a subject of Caesar, and pays him the tribute: "Scarcely born, He is registered in the census of Caesar, and for our liberation **He Himself is inscribed in the list of servitude.**"

as an Infant -- Jesus Suffers from the Start: Observe how, in token of His servitude, He begins to pay off our debts by His sufferings; how He allows Himself to be wrapped in swaddling-clothes (a type of the cords which should bind Him at a later day, to be led to death by cruel executioners). "God suffers Himself, to be bound up in swaddling-bands,

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.

because He had come to unbind the world from its debts." says a certain author.

as Adolescent -- Obedience of Jesus to His Parents:

I Behold Him during the whole course of His after-life obeying with ready submission a simple Virgin and a man: He was subject to them" (Luke, ii. 51) Look at Him as a servant in the poor cottage at Nazareth, employed by Mary and Joseph at one time in smoothing the wood to be worked upon by Joseph in his trade; at another time in collecting the scattered shavings for fuel; then in sweeping the house, in fetching water from the well, in opening or in closing the shop; in fine, says St. Basil, as Mary and Joseph were poor, and obliged to earn a livelihood by the work of their hands, Jesus Christ, in order to practice obedience, and to show towards them that reverence which as to Superiors He owed them, endeavored to render them all the services which lay in His power as man.

as a Faithful Son -- Example of Obedience:

"In His early age Jesus was subject to His parents, and obediently underwent every kind of bodily fatigue; for, as they were poor, they necessarily were obliged to labor. But Jesus showed His obedience by His submission to them, by undergoing every kind of labor." What! a God to serve! a God to sweep the house! a God to work! Ah, how the mere thought of this should inflame us all, and make us burn with love!

as man: Preacher and Teacher:

Subsequently, when our Savior went forth to preach, He made Himself the servant of all, declaring that He had come not to be served, but to serve all others: The Son of Man is not come to be ministered unto, but to minister. (Matt. xx. 28) As much as to say, according to the commentary of Cornelius a Lapide, "I have conducted Myself, and still

conduct Myself, so as to show how I would willingly minister to all as the servant of all."

Treated as a Lowest Servant:

Hence Jesus Christ, says St. Bernard, at the close of His life, was not content to take the form of a simple servant, in order to be at the command of others, but even of a wicked servant, in order to be punished as such, and so to pay off that punishment which was due to us as the servants of hell in chastisement of our sins. "Taking not only the form of a servant that He might obey, but of a wicked servant that He might be chastised, and so pay the penalty of the servant's sin."!

Obedient -- Even to Death on the Cross:

Behold, finally, says St. Gregory of Nyssa, how the Lord of all submits as an obedient subject to the unjust sentence of Pilate, and to the hands of His executioners, who barbarously torture and crucify Him. "The Lord of all is obedient to the sentence of the judge, the King of all does not disdain to feel the hand of the executioners." St. Peter had said as much before: *He delivered Himself to him that judged Him unjustly.* (1 Peter, ii. 23) And, like a servant, He is resigned to punishment, as if He had well deserved it: *When He was reviled, He did not revile; and when He suffered, He threatened not.* (1 Peter, ii. 23) Thus did our God love us to such a mode, that for our love He chose to obey as a servant even unto death, and a death of such extreme bitterness and ignominy as the death of the cross: *Becoming obedient unto death, even to the death of the cross.* (Phil. ii. 8) He obeyed, indeed, not as God, but as man, and as a servant, as He had made Himself: *Taking the form of a servant, and being made in the likeness of men?* (Phil. ii. 7)

All For Us! The world stood in admiration of that grand act of charity, which St. Paulinus performed in consenting to become a slave for the ransom of the son of a poor widow. But what comparison does this bear with the charity of our Redeemer, Who being God, and in order to rescue us from the slavery of the devil and from death, our just due, chose to become a servant, to be fast bound with cords, to be nailed to the cross, and there in the end to lay down His life in a sea of sorrow and ignominy? In order, says St. Augustine, that the servant might become lord, God chose to become a servant.

(Thank you Jesus.)

Affections:

"O amazing condescension of Thy bounty towards us! O inestimable tenderness of Thy charity!" exclaims the Holy Church. "That Thou mightest redeem the servant, Thou hast delivered up the Son." Thou, then, O God of boundless majesty, hast been so fascinated with love for men, that to redeem these Thy rebellious servants Thou hast consented to condemn Thy only Son to death.

But, O Lord, replies the holy man Job: *What is a man, that Thou shouldst magnify him? or why dost Thou set Thy heart upon him?* (Job. vii. 17) What is man, who is so vile, and has proved so ungrateful to Thee, that Thou shouldst make him so great, by honoring and loving him to such an excess? Tell me (he goes on to say), why are the salvation and happiness of man of so much importance to Thee? Tell me why Thou lovest him so much, that it would seem as if Thy heart was set on nothing else but to love and to make man happy?

The Eternal Word from being Lord became a Servant by St. Alphonsus de Liguori