

When the day came, Hildebrand rose early and prepared for the combat. As he was going towards the place appointed, he had to pass by a chapel, and as the hour of meeting had not yet come, he thought he might go into the chapel to wait.

So he entered. He began to walk round the chapel, and to examine the pictures that hung upon the wall. The first one he looked at represented Our Divine Savior being clad in a fool's garment by Herod, and underneath he read those words: "He rendered not evil for evil."

After looking at this one for a few moments, he went on a little further, and stood before another, representing the scourging of Our Lord at the pillar. Below this picture were the following words: "When He suffered He threatened not." Near this one hung another. It was the death of Jesus on the Cross. The inscription on this picture was the dying prayer of Jesus to His Heavenly Father for His murderers: "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do."

It was not by chance that Hildebrand had gone into this church: God, who desired earnestly his conversion, had led him in, and now His grace spoke to him by these pictures. As the ice melts away before the heat of the sun, so did his anger melt away at the sight of these holy pictures. He threw himself on his knees and began to pray. He prayed for pardon for himself and pardon for the one who had injured him.

The hour came for the contest to begin. Hildebrand rose from his knees to go and meet his enemy, who was awaiting him. But what was the surprise of the latter to see the knight walk up to him, take him by the hand, and ask his forgiveness. "Jesus forgave his enemies and prayed for them; let us do the same," he said.

The other willingly acceded to his request, and from that day forward they became the greatest friends.

Since every little pain or trouble in this world will have its special reward in Heaven, if we bear it patiently for God's sake, you ought, my child, to be glad when God gives you an opportunity of gaining this reward.

*Catechism in Examples* by Rev. D. Chisholm

**Please Pray for Our Deceased Members**

**Richard Stattelman**  
Sacred Heart & St. Joseph – Topeka, KS

**Joe Amarin** (Pres. – 20 years)  
Our Lady of Lourdes – Massapequa Park, NY

**Kim Do**  
Christ the King – Jacksonville, FL

**Hoa Do**  
Christ the King – Jacksonville, FL

**Cynthia Day**  
St. Andrew – Drexel, PA

**Martin J. Casey Jr.**  
St. Patrick -- Yorktown Heights, 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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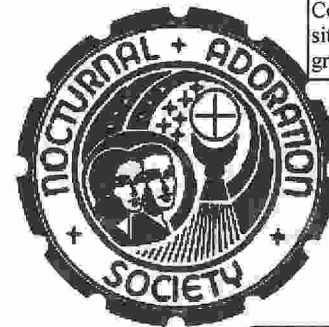
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My Dear Friend in Christ, Could you please help with the printing and mailing of these letters with a donation? Thank you. God bless you and Mary keep you.

*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**  
**May**  
**2023**

**... in His Presence**

**Example of Love: from the Cross**

"Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."  
(Luke, xxiii. 34)

**Love for Enemies:**

O loving tenderness of Jesus towards men! St. Augustine says that when the Savior was injured by His enemies, He besought pardon for them; for He thought not so much of the injuries He received from them, and the death they inflicted upon Him, as upon the love which brought Him to die for them.

**Teacher of Love:**

But some may say, Why did Jesus pray to the Father to pardon them, when He Himself could have forgiven their injuries? St. Bernard replies that He prayed to the Father, not because He could not Himself forgive them, but that He might teach us to pray for them that persecute us.

The holy abbot says also in another place: "O wonderful thing! He cries, Forgive; they cry, Crucify."

**Love Overtakes Blindness:**

Arnold of Chartres remarks that while Jesus was laboring to save the Jews, they were laboring to destroy themselves; but the love of the Son had more power with God than the

*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.*

blindness of this ungrateful people.

**Even Enemies Benefit!**

St. Cyprian writes, "Even he who sheds the blood of Christ is made to live by the blood of Christ." Jesus Christ, in dying, had so great a desire to save all men that He made even those enemies who shed His blood with torments partakers of that blood.

"Look" says St. Augustine, "at Thy God upon His cross; see how He prays for them that crucify Him; and then deny pardon to thy brother who has offended thee!

**Great Number of Conversions:**

St. Leo writes that it was through this prayer of Christ that so many thousands of Jews were converted at the preaching of St. Paul, as we read in the Acts of the Apostles; St. Jerome says, while God did not will that the prayer of Jesus Christ should continue without effect, and therefore at the very time He caused many of the Jews to embrace the faith.

**Resist the Holy Spirit:**

But why were they not all converted? I reply that the prayer of Jesus Christ was conditional, and that they who were converted were not of the number of those of whom it was said, Ye have resisted the Holy Ghost. (Acts, vii. 51)

**Affections:**

In this prayer Jesus Christ further included all sinners; so that we all may say to God:

O Eternal Father, hear the prayer of Thy beloved Son, Who prayed to Thee to pardon us. We deserve not this pardon, but Jesus Christ has merited it, Who by His death has more than abundantly satisfied for our sins.

**Contrition:**

No, my God, I would not be obstinate like the Jews; I repent, O my Father, with all my heart, for having offended Thee, and through the merits of Jesus Christ I ask for pardon.

*Passion of Jesus Christ* by St. Alphonsus de Liguori

**Charity Toward an Erring Brother**

As the Saint prayed one day for some persons who had formerly injured the convent seriously by their thefts, and were again committing depredations.

**Suffering Christ:**

Our Lord appeared to her as if suffering much pain in one of His arms, which was so drawn back that the nerves were seriously injured, and He said to her:

**Pain Infliction:**

"Consider what torment he would cause Me who should strike Me with his closed hand (fist), on this suffering arm;

**Members of My Body:**

and reflect that I am outraged in like manner by all those who, without compassionating the danger to which the souls who persecute you are exposed, do nothing else but talk maliciously of their (the persecutors') sins and what they (the victims) have suffered in consequence, without reflecting that these unhappy people (the persecutors) are members of My Body;

**Sooth Christ' Sufferings:**

while all those who touched by compassion, implore My mercy for them, that I may convert them, act toward Me as if they soothed the pain of My arm with healing ointments;

**... as Wise Physicians:**

and I consider those who, by their counsels and charitable warnings, try to induce them to amend their lives, as wise physicians who endeavor to restore My arm to its proper position."

Then Gertrude, admiring the ineffable goodness of God, said to Him "But how, Lord, can these unworthy persons be compared to Your arm?" He replied:

**Members of My Church:**

"Because they are members of the body of My Church, of which I glory in being the Head."

"But My God" exclaimed Gertrude, "they are cut off from the Church by excommunication, since they

have been publicly anathematized for the violence they have done to this Monastery."

**Desire for Conversion:**

"Nevertheless", replied the Lord, "as they can be restored to the bosom of the Church by absolution, My natural goodness obliges Me to care for them, and I desire with incredible ardor that they should be converted and do penance."

The Saint then prayed that the Monastery might be defended from their snares by His paternal protection, and she received this reply:

**Protection Through Humility and Contrition:**

"If you

<sup>1</sup> humble yourselves under My mighty Hand,

<sup>2</sup> and acknowledge before Me in the secret of your hearts that your sins have merited this chastisement,

My paternal mercy will protect you from all the efforts of your enemies;

**More and Greater Afflictions:**

but if you

<sup>1</sup> rise up proudly against those who persecute you,

<sup>2</sup> wishing them evil for evil,

then, by My just judgment, I will permit them to become stronger than you, and to afflict you still more."

*Revelations: Ch. 56 -- Part 3* by St. Gertrude

**The Knight Hildebrand**

Long ago a certain knight called Hildebrand had received a great insult from another nobleman, who had an ill-will towards him. Hildebrand felt the insult so keenly that he determined to be revenged.

Accordingly he sent a challenge to his enemy, and appointed the time and the place where they would meet and fight a duel, for in those days it was supposed that blood alone could wipe out injuries of this kind.