

He could not see, for his eyes were, as it were, dazzled with the beautiful things he had seen in Heaven. **Whenever he went to Communion he always offered himself to God through the hands of Our Lady**, for now he knew how much more acceptable was the offering made in this manner; and Our Blessed Lady procured for him in the end the **greatest of all good gifts—that of final perseverance.**

St. Philip Neri's Love For Mary

St. Philip Neri's love and devotion to Our Lady were deep and fervent. Her name was almost always on his lips, and his constant desire was to promote her honor and spread her praise. No child ever loved his earthly mother as tenderly as Philip loved Mary. He called her his love, his joy, his consolation, and uttered these words with so much tenderness that those who heard him were moved to tears.

Whenever he wanted anything from Jesus, he asked it through Mary; she seemed to lead him, as it were, to the feet of His heavenly throne, and procure for him whatever he asked.

One day, while lying on a bed of sickness, and so ill that the physicians themselves thought he would never rise again, he was suddenly heard to exclaim: "O my most holy Mother, my most beautiful and blessed Mother!"

The physicians and the priests present hastened to his side, and beheld him raised in the air more than a foot above his bed, his arms stretched out as if he wished to embrace someone; at the same time they heard him exclaim: "Dearest Lady, I am not worthy of this favor. I do not deserve that thou shouldst come to visit and heal me.

What return shall I make to thee if thou restoreth me to health – I, who have never done any good?"

To the surprise of the bystanders, he arose from his bed perfectly cured. Our Blessed Lady had healed him.

Like **St. Philip**, my child, when you are anxious to approach Jesus in Holy Communion, go in company with Our Lady, and she will procure for you from Him a loving welcome.

The Catechism in Examples by Rev. D. Chisholm

Please Pray for Our Deceased Members

Gabrielle Monette (wife of Editor)
Our Lady of Perpetual Help – Rapid City, SD

Margaret CamBone
St. John The Baptist – Santa Fe, NM

Sally Aragon
St. Francis Xavier -- Pueblo, CO

Oliver J. Semmes
St. Sylvester – Gulf Breeze, FL

Each month, a Mass is offered for deceased members listed in the monthly letter; 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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Communion Thanksgiving: Jesus sits in our soul as on a throne of grace. St. Alphonsus di Liguori

NAS Letter
May
2024

... in His Presence

Charity Hopeth All Things.

Trust in God Only:

He that loves Jesus Christ hopes for all things from Him. Hope increases charity, and charity increases hope. Hope in the divine goodness undoubtedly gives an increase to our love of Jesus Christ. **St. Thomas** says, that in the very moment when we hope to receive some benefit from a person, we begin also to love him. On this account, the Lord forbids us to put our trust in creatures: Put not your trust in princes. (Ps. cxlv. 2.) Further, He pronounces a curse on those who do so: *Cursed be the man that trusteth in man.* (Jer. xvii. 5)

God Withdraws:

God does not wish us to trust in creatures, because He does not wish us to fix our love upon them. Hence **St. Vincent of Paul** said: "Let us beware of reposing too much confidence in men; for **when God beholds us thus leaning on them for support, He Himself withdraws from us.**" On the other hand, the more we trust in God, the more we shall advance in His holy love: *I have run the way of Thy Commandments, when*

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.

Thou didst enlarge my heart. (Ps. cxviii. 32) Oh, how rapidly does that soul advance in perfection that has her heart dilated with confidence in God!

Strength From God:

The soul flies rather than runs; for by making God the foundation of all her hope, she flings aside her own weakness, and borrows the strength of God Himself, which is communicated to all who place their confidence in Him: *They that hope in the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall take wings as eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.* (Is. xl. 31) The eagle is the bird that soars nearest the sun; in the same way, the soul that has God for her trust becomes detached from the earth, and more and more united to God by love.

Sons of God Supernaturally:

Now as hope increases the love of God, so does love help to increase hope; for charity makes us the adopted sons of God. In the natural order we are the work of His hands; but in the supernatural order we are made sons of God, and partakers of the Divine nature, through the merits of Jesus Christ; as the Apostle St. Peter writes: *That by these you may be made partakers of the Divine nature.* (2 Pet. 1. 4) And if charity makes us the sons of God, it consequently makes us heirs of heaven, according to St. Paul: *And if sons, heirs also.* (Rom. viii. 17)

Shower of Graces:

Now a son claims the right of abiding under the paternal roof; an heir is entitled to the property; and thus charity increases the hope of Paradise: so that the souls that love God cry out incessantly, "*Thy kingdom come, Thy kingdom come!*" Moreover, God loves those who love Him: *I love them that love Me.* (Prov. VI11. 17)

He showers down His graces on those that seek Him by love: *The Lord is good to the soul that seeketh Him.* (Lam.iii 25)

Love for God -- Constant Joy and Peace:

Consequently, the soul that loves God most has the greatest hope in His goodness. This confidence produces that steady tranquility in the saints which makes them always joyful and full of peace, even amid the severest trials; for their love of Jesus Christ, and their persuasion of His liberality towards those who love Him, leads them to trust solely in Him; and thus they find a lasting repose.

Passion and Death of Jesus Christ by St. Alphonsus

St. Gertrude in Confidence

As Gertrude prepared herself for Communion on the Feast of the Holy Innocents, she found herself distracted by a crowd of importunate thoughts; and having implored the Divine assistance,

Our Lord, in His exceeding mercy, spoke thus to her;

"If anyone, when encompassed by temptation, throws himself on My protection with a firm hope,

he is of the number of those whom I can say: 'One is My dove, chosen amongst a thousand; he has pierced My Divine Heart with one glance of His eye';

so that if I thought I could not assist him, my Heart would be so desolate that even all the joys of Heaven could not alleviate my grief,

because he is a part of My Body, and is united to My Divinity; and I am ever the advocate of My elect,

full of compassion for their every need."

"Lord", replied St. Gertrude, "how is it that Thy Immaculate Body, in which Thou never hadst any contradiction, enables Thee to compassionate our many weaknesses?"

He replied

"You may easily convince yourself of this. Has not My Apostle said: *"It behooved Him in all things to be made like unto His brethren, that He might be able to succor them also that are tempted?"*" (Heb. 2:17-18)

He added: This eye of My beloved, which pierces My Heart, is the confidence which she ought to have in Me that I know, that I am able, and that I am willing to assist her faithfully in all her miseries;

and this confidence has such power over My goodness, that it is not possible for Me to abandon her."

Revelations by St. Gertrude the Great

St. Alphonsus And Our Lady

One year, on August 15, the Festival of Our Lady's Assumption into Heaven, St. Alphonsus Rodriguez went very early to the church to prepare for Holy Communion. After he had received his Divine Master in His most Holy Sacrament, and while he was making his thanksgiving with great fervor, he was favored with a beautiful vision.

He thought that he was kneeling at the foot of Our Lady's throne in Heaven, with his angel guardian and his patron, St. Francis, at his side. Our Lady spoke to him with great affection, and warmly welcomed him. Then, taking his soul, she presented it to the Eternal Father, Who received the offering with the greatest delight, coming as it did from the hand of one so beloved by Him.

When the Saint returned to his senses, he could scarcely reach his home; his limbs seemed to bend under him, so great was his emotion.