

O Mary, refuge of sinners, and Mother of My Savior! help a sinner who wishes to love God, and who recommends himself to thee; succor me for the love thou bearest to Jesus Christ.

Practice of the Love of Jesus . . . by St. Alphonsus

In The Arms Of Jesus

In the year 1623, at the beginning of Lent, the Venerable Agnes of Jesus became very ill. She was at that time only twenty-one years old. The physicians who were called in did not seem to understand the nature of her malady, and gave her medicine which, instead of making her better, only made her suffer the more.

But Agnes never uttered one word of complaint; the only words she said were the following, which she repeated often every day:

"O my God, O my sweet and amiable Jesus, mayest Thou be blessed a thousand and a thousand times."

When Easter Sunday came, God was pleased to reward the patience with which she had suffered the heavy crosses He had been pleased to send her, by permitting her angel guardian to appear to her.

My child," said the angel, "are you happy in your sufferings?"

"Yes," she answered, "because it is the holy will of Him Whom I love with all my heart."

"But was it not also your own desire to suffer? He has only done to you what you yourself asked Him to do?"

Agnes answered: " My heart and my will are entirely united to Him: let Him dispose of me according to His Divine will; and if it should be His desire that I should suffer all my lifetime, and even to the Day of Judgment, I am ready to do so." The angel answered: "Continue to love Jesus in this way, and be assured that He will never forsake you."

What Sin Does

When **St. Bridget** was ten years old, she heard a sermon on the sufferings of our Lord. The following night she had a vision, in which she saw Jesus hanging on the cross.

Jesus said to her: "Bridget, look at Me nailed to the cross.

"O my Jesus," she cried out, "who was it that nailed You to that cross?"

Jesus answered: "My own children did it, because they would not love Me, but despised Me, and committed sin."

When **St. Bridget** awoke, she was so touched by what she had seen, that for the rest of her life she could never think of the sufferings of our Lord without weeping.

Catechism in Examples by Rev. Chisholm

Please Pray for Our Deceased Members

Catherine Mondragon
Sacred Heart Cathedral -- Pueblo, CO

Mary Lou Regalado
St. Joseph -- Pueblo, CO

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
August
2024

... in His Presence

Our Hope is in Jesus Christ

We Must Place All Our Hopes in the Merits of Jesus Christ

Jesus Crucified is our only Hope in all our Needs.

There is no salvation in any other. (Acts. iv. 12)
St. Peter says that all our salvation is in Jesus Christ, Who, by means of the cross, where He sacrificed His life for us, opened us a way for hoping for every blessing from God, if we would be faithful to His commands.

St. John Chrysostom says of the cross:

"The cross is the hope of Christians, the staff of the lame, the comfort of the poor, the destruction of the proud, the victory over the devils, the guide of youth, the rudder of sailors, the refuge of those who are in danger, the counselor of the just, the rest of the afflicted, the physician of the sick, the glory of martyrs."

The **cross**, that is, **Jesus crucified**, is:

1. The **hope of the faithful**, because if we had not Jesus Christ we should have no hope of salvation.

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. It is the staff of the lame, because we are all lame in our present state of corruption. We should have no strength to walk in the way of salvation except that which is communicated to us by the grace of Jesus Christ.

3. It is the comfort of the poor, which we all are, for all we have we have from Jesus Christ.

4. It is the destruction of the proud, for the followers of the Crucified cannot be proud, seeing Him dead as a malefactor upon the cross.

5. It is the victory over the devils, for the very sign of the cross is sufficient to drive them from us.

6. It is the instructor of the young, for admirable is the teaching which they who are beginning to walk in the ways of God learn from the cross.

7. It is the rudder of mariners, and guides us through the storms of this present life.

8. It is the refuge of those in danger, for they who are in peril of perishing, through temptations of strong passions, find a secure harbor by flying to the cross.

9. It is the counselor of the just, for how many saints learn wisdom from the cross, that is, from the troubles of this life.

10. It is the rest of the afflicted, for where can they find greater relief than in contemplating the cross, on which a God suffers for love of them?

11. It is the physician of the sick, for when they embrace it, they are healed of the wounds of the soul.

12. It is the glory of martyrs, for to be made like Jesus Christ, the King of Martyrs, is the greatest glory they can possess.

1.) ... with the Grace of God: In a word, all our hopes are placed in the merits of Jesus Christ. The Apostle says. *I know how to be humbled, and I know how to abound; how to be satisfied, and how to hunger; how to abound, and how to suffer poverty. I can do all things in Him Who strengthens me.* (Phil. iv. 12)

Thus St. Paul, instructed by the Lord, says, I know how I ought to conduct myself: *when God humbles me, I resign myself to His will; when He exalts me, to Him I give all the honor; when He gives me abundance, I thank Him; when He makes me endure poverty, still I bless Him; and I do all this not by my own strength, but by the strength of the grace which God gives me. For he that trusts in Jesus Christ is strengthened with invincible power.*

2.) Trust in God Only: "The Lord," says St. Bernard, "makes those who hope in Him all-powerful." The saint also adds that a soul which does not presume upon its own strength, but is strengthened by the Word, can govern itself, so that no evil shall have power over it; and that no force, no fraud, no snare can cast it down.

3.) Strength in My Weakness: The Apostle prayed thrice to God that the impure temptations which troubled him might be driven away, and he was answered, *My grace is sufficient for thee, for My strength is accomplished in weakness.* (2 Cor. xii, 9)

How is this that the virtue of perfection consists in weakness? St. Thomas, with St. Chrysostom, explains it, that the greater our weakness and inclination to evil, the greater is the strength given us by God. Therefore, St. Paul himself says, *I will gladly, therefore, glory in my infirmities, that the strength of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore, I take pleasure in my infirmities, in insults, in necessities, in persecutions, in straits for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.* (2 Cor. 9, 10)

Considerations On The Passion by St. Alphonsus Liguori

Meditation On The Passion

St. Bonaventure says there is no devotion more fitted for sanctifying a soul than meditation on the Passion of Jesus Christ; whence he advises us to meditate every day upon the Passion, if we would advance in the love of God.

The saints were always occupied in considering the sorrows of Jesus Christ: it was by this means that St. Francis of Assisi became a seraph.

He was one day found by a gentleman shedding tears, and crying out with a loud voice: being asked the cause "I weep," he answered, "over the sorrows and ignominies of my Lord: and what causes me the greatest sorrow is, that men, for whom He suffered so much, live in forgetfulness of Him."

When the saint heard the bleating of a lamb, or saw anything which reminded him of the Passion of Jesus, he immediately shed tears. On another occasion, being sick, someone told him to read some pious book. "My book," he replied, "is Jesus crucified." Hence he did nothing but exhort his brethren to be ever thinking of the Passion of Jesus Christ.

Affections and Prayers

O Eternal Word! Thou hast spent three-and-thirty years in labors and fatigues; Thou hast given Thy life and Thy blood for man's salvation; how is it possible that there should be those who know this, and yet do not love Thee?

O my soul, love a God Who is bound like a criminal for thee; a God scourged like a slave for thee; a God made a mock-king for thee; a God, in short, dead upon a cross, as the vilest outcast for thee!

I desire to love Thee always. Save me, my dearest Savior; bind me to Thyself, that I may never again lose Thee.