<u>A Gift</u>: The Cross is the gift that God makes to His friends.

How beautiful it is to offer ourselves every morning in sacrifice to the good God, and to accept everything in expiation of our sins! We must ask for the love of crosses; then they become sweet.

<u>Crosses come from God</u>: I tried it for four or five years. I was well calumniated, well contradicted, well knocked about. Oh, I had crosses indeed! I had almost more than I could carry!

Then I took to asking for love of crosses, and I was happy. I said to myself, truly there is no happiness but in this! We must never think from where crosses come: they come from God. It is always God who gives us this way of proving our love to Him.

The little Catechism by St. John Vianney, The Curé of Ars.

St. Clare in Her Last Illness

St. Clare, far from complaining of the terrible sufferings she endured during the last few weeks of her life, gave thanks to God for sending them to her.

"O my Divine Savior," she exclaimed in her ecstasy, "eternal thanks be given to Thee for sending me these pains. Thou halt permitted me to drink of the chalice of Thy sufferings. Oh, how sweet to me is that chalice! Nothing now can give me sorrow nor afflict me; everything is easy for me, because in my heart I love Thee, my Savior."

The other religious were standing near her, weeping; but she consoled them, and said to them joyfully that they would meet again in the Kingdom of Heaven. Then she died, as if she had fallen into a peaceful slumber.

Catechism in Examples by Rev D. Chisholm

The Roses Of Paradise

St. Felix of Cantalicia suffered continually from internal pains, but he was never heard to complain; on the contrary, he was always cheerful. He used to call them God's particular favors, and the "roses of Paradise".

The Catechism in Examples by Rev. D. Chisholm

Please Pray for Our Deceased Members

Betty Massimini St. Andrew – Drexel Hill, PA

George Wanek Christ The King – Omaha, NE

Maggie Collins Christ The King – Omaha, NE

F Richard Cortez St. Catherine Labouré -- Pittsburgh, PA

Diane Katanowski Basilica of St Mary's -- Alexandria, VA

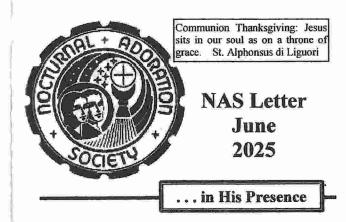
Each month, a Mass is offered for deceased members listed in the monthly letter; and another Mass is offered for all past deceased members.

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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.

Jeresa Burkan

Teresa Burkard (860) 877-0894 Please send donations to: NAS. P.O. 9451. Forestville. CT 06011



The Generous Heart of Jesus

It is the characteristic of good-hearted people to desire to make everybody happy, and especially those most distressed and afflicted. But who can ever find one who has a better heart than Jesus Christ! He is infinite goodness, and has therefore a sovereign desire to communicate to us His riches: "With life are riches, that I may enrich them that love Me." (Prov. Viii, 18.21)

For this purpose,

<u>He became poor:</u>

He made Himself poor, as the Apostle says, that He might make us rich: He became poor for your sakes, that through His poverty you might be rich. (2 Cor. Viii. 9)

Dispense His Abundant Graces:

He chose to remain with us in the most Holy Sacrament, where He remains constantly with His hands full of graces, as was seen by Father Balthazar Alvarez, to dispense them to those who come to visit Him.

Gives Himself Entirely:

and He also gives Himself wholly to us in Holy Communion, giving us to

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. understand from this that He cannot refuse us any good gifts, since He even gives Himself entirely to us: *How hath He not also, with Him, given us all things?* (Rom. viii, 32)

Abundant Graces . . .:

For in the heart of Jesus we receive every good, every grace that we desire: In all things you are made rich in Christ, . . . so that nothing is wanting to you in any grace. (1 Cor. I. 5. 7)

... for All Our Needs:

And we must understand that we are debtors to the Heart of Jesus for all the graces we have received --- graces of redemption, of vocation, of light, of pardon, the grace to resist temptations, and to bear patiently with contradictions; for without His assistance we could not do anything good: Without Me you can do nothing. (John, xv. 5)

Seek for Graces:

And if up to now, says Our Saviour, you have not received more graces, do not complain of Me, but blame yourself, who have neglected to seek them of Me: Until now you have not asked for anything; ... ask, and you shall receive. (John xvi. 24)

Ask Help From Jesus Christ:

Oh, how rich and liberal is the heart of Jesus towards everyone that has recourse to Him! *Rich unto all that call upon Him.* (Rom. X. 12) Oh, what great mercies do those souls receive who are earnest in asking help of Jesus Christ. David said, *For Thou, O Lord, art sweet and mild, and plenteous to all who call upon Thee.* (Ps. 1xxxv. 5) Let us therefore always go to this Heart, and ask with confidence, and we shall obtain all we want.

Affections and Prayers All My Heart to Thee, Jesus:

Ah, my Jesus, Thou hast not refused to give me Thy blood and Thy life, and shall I refuse to give Thee my miserable heart?

No, my dearest Redeemer, I offer it entirely to Thee. I give Thee all my will; do

Thou accept it, and dispose of it at Thy pleasure.

I can do nothing, and have nothing; but I have this heart which Thou hast given me, and of which no one can deprive me.

I may be deprived of my goods, my blood, my life, but not of my heart. With this heart I can love Thee; with this heart I will love Thee.

Make Me All Thyne:

I beseech Thee, O my God, teach me a perfect forgetfulness of myself; teach me what I must do to arrive at Thy pure love, of which Thou in Thy goodness hast inspired me with the desire.

I feel in myself a determination to please Thee; but in order to put my resolve into execution, I expect and implore help from Thee.

O loving heart of Jesus, make entirely Thine my poor heart, which since now has been so ungrateful, and through my own fault deprived of Thy love.

Oh, grant that my heart may be all on fire with the love of Thee, even as Thine is on fire with the love of me.

My Whole Will, O Lord:

Grant that my will may be entirely united to Thine, so that I may will nothing but what Thou willest, and that from this day forth Thy holy will may be the rule of all my actions, of all my thoughts, and of all my desires.

I trust, O my Savior, Thy grace to fulfil this resolution which I now make prostrate at Thy feet, to receive with submission whatever Thou mayest ordain for me and my affairs, as well in life as in death.

O Mary, My Mother:

Blessed art thou, O Immaculate Mary, who hadst thy heart always and entirely united to the heart of Jesus; obtain for me, O my Mother, that in future I may wish and desire that which Jesus wills and thou willest.

The Holy Eucharist by St Alphonsus de Liguori

God Sends Us Afflictions to Draw Us to His Loving Heart

St. Gertrude, knowing that a certain person, for whose welfare she had labored with extreme solicitude, did not respond with the same fidelity to her care, and even, through a kind of contempt, acted contrary to what she advised, had recourse to Our Lord in her affliction, who consoled her thus:

Afflictions Permitted:

Do not be grieved, My daughter, for I have permitted this to happen for your eternal welfare, that I may the oftener enjoy your company and conversation, in which I take so much pleasure.

Example of a Mothers Love:

And even as a mother who has a little child whom she loves specially, and therefore desires to have always with her, places something that will alarm her, and oblige her to come back into her arms, when she has strayed from her,

Our Lord's Love:

so also desiring to have you always near Me, I permit your friends to contradict you in some things that you may find no true fidelity in any creature, and therefore have recourse to Me with all the more eagerness, because you know that I possess the plenitude and stability of all contentment.

After this it seemed to her as if Our Lord placed her in His bosom like a little child, and there caressed her in many ways; and, approaching His adorable lips to her ears, He whispered to her:

Consolation By Our Lord:

As a tender mother soothes the troubles of her little one by her kisses and embraces, so do I desire to soothe all your pains and griefs by the sweet murmur of My loving words.

After the Saint had enjoyed these and many other consolations for some time, Our Lord offered her His Heart. *Revelations* of St. Gertrude