## The Leper Cleansed

Jesus had just finished His beautiful sermon on the mountain, and had come down to the plain beneath, followed by the crowd of people who had been listening to Him. "And behold," says St. Matthew, "a leper came and adored Him, saying, 'Lord, if Thou wilt Thou canst make me clean.' And Jesus, stretching forth His hand, touched him, saying, I will; be thou made clean. And forthwith his leprosy was cleansed."

Our Lord, in the Sacrament of Penance, continues, by the ministry of His priests, to cleanse us from a worse leprosy than that with which the poor man was afflicted the leprosy of sin. How grateful we should be to Him for His goodness and love for us!

## Jesus' Love For Poor Sinners

One day, when Blessed Angela of Foligno was suffering great pain, and was trying to bear it patiently for the love of Jesus, He appeared to her nailed to the Cross. Showing her His body, all covered with wounds from which issued blood, He said to her: "Look at Me, My child, and tell Me if you could ever do, for the love of Me, anything that could equal what I have done through love for you."

Now Jesus suffered for you as well as for her, my child; so if your conscience reproaches you with having turned your back upon Jesus by sin, arise at once and go back to your Father by making a good Confession; He will receive you with joy, and will cleanse you from your sins.

## Joy of a Holy Monk at Death

St. Alphonsus recommends every good Christian to make an examination of conscience every night before retiring to rest, and of making a sincere act of contrition, and assures us that this is a devotion which will give us great consolation at the hour of death.

It is related that a certain devout monk, when at the point of death, was told by his

Superior to prepare for Confession.

"Blessed be God," he answered, "I have for the past thirty years made an examination of conscience every night, and I always make my Confession as if I were at the point of death."

How happy are those, my child, who imitate his beautiful example!

The Catechism in Examples by Rev. D. Chisholm

### Please Pray for Our Deceased Members

#### Madeline Grimo

Our Lady of Mt Carmel Church -- Bristol, RI

#### Jenny Swope

St. Thomas Aquinas, Derry, NH

#### Viola Kalthoff

St. Joseph -- Waite Park, MN

#### Joseph Hollister

-- Bolivar, NY

#### Theresa Schmidt

St. Mary Help of Christians -- St Augusta, MN

#### Roland (Rollie) Wettstein

St. Mary Help of Christians -- St Augusta, MN

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.

# Teresa Burkard

Teresa Burkard (860) 877-0894

Please send donations to: NAS, P.O. 9451, Forestville, CT 06011



Communion Thanksgiving: Jesus sits in our soul as on a throne of grace. St. Alphonsus di Liguori

NAS Letter December 2025

... in His Presence

# The Grateful Heart of Jesus

## Most Abundant Gratitude:

The Heart of Jesus is so grateful, that it cannot behold the most trifling works done for the love of Him - our smallest word spoken for His glory, a single good thought directed towards pleasing Him - without giving to each its own reward. He is besides so grateful, that He always returns a hundredfold for one: You shall receive a hundredfold. (Matt XIX. 29)

## Infinite Recompense:

Men, when they are grateful, and recompense any benefit done to them, recompense it only once; they, as it were, divest themselves of all obligation, and then they think no more of it. Jesus Christ does not do thus with us; He not only recompenses a hundredfold in this life every good action that we perform to please Him, but in the next life He recompenses it an infinite number of times throughout eternity.

And who will be so negligent as not to do as much as he can to please this most Grateful Heart? [For those who go out to adoration in the middle of the night, how pleasing this must be to Our Lord. We sacrifice sleep and the security

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.

of our home. The greater the sacrifice, the greater the proof of our love for Christ.]

#### Our Obligation to Love Jesus:

But, O my God, how do men try to please Jesus Christ? Or rather, I will say, how can we be so ungrateful towards this Our Savior? If He had only shed a single drop of blood, or one tear alone for our salvation, yet we should be under infinite obligation to Him; because this drop and this tear would have been of infinite value in the sight of God towards obtaining for us every grace.

But Jesus would employ for us every moment of His life. He has given us all His merits, all His sufferings, all His ignominies, all His blood, and His life; so that we are under, not one, but infinite, obligations to love Him.

#### Creatures or God:

But alas! we are grateful even towards animals: if a little dog shows us any sign of affection, it seems to constrain us to love it. How, then, can we be so ungrateful towards God? It seems as if the benefits of God towards men change their nature, and become ill-usage; for, instead of gratitude and love, they procure nothing but offences and injuries. O Lord, enlighten these ungrateful ones, to know the love that You bear them.

The Holy Eucharist by St. Alphonsus de Liguori (Meditation VII)

# Affections and Prayers: Contrition:

O my beloved Jesus, behold at Your feet an ungrateful sinner. I have been grateful indeed towards creatures; but to You alone I have been ungrateful - to You, Who have died for me, and have done the utmost that You could do to oblige me to love You.

#### Goodness Realized:

But the thought that I have to do with a heart full of goodness and infinite in mercy, of One Who proclaims that He forgives all the offences of the sinner who repents and loves Him, consoles me and gives me courage.

#### Total Resignation:

My dearest Jesus, I have in times past offended You and been indifferent to You; but now I love You more than everything - more than myself. Tell me what You would have me do; for I am ready to do everything with Your help.

I believe You have created me. You have given Your blood and Your life for the love of me. I believe also that for my sake You remain in the Blessed Sacrament; I thank You for it, O my love.

#### Unite in Love:

Oh, permit me not to be ungrateful in the future for so many benefits and proofs of Your love. Oh, bind me, unite me to Your heart; and permit me not, during the years that remain to me, to offend You or grieve You anymore. I have displeased You sufficiently.

#### Holy Resolve:

O my Jesus, it is time that I should love You now. Oh, that those years that I have lost would return! But they will return no more, and the life that remains for me may be short; but whether it be short or long, my God, I desire to spend it all in loving You, my sovereign good, who deserves an eternal and infinite love.

## Mary, My Mother:

O Mary, my Mother, please let me never again be ungrateful to Your Son. Pray to Jesus for me.

The Holy Eucharist by St. Alphonsus de Liguori

## Endless Acts for Gratitude

"We have," says St. Lawrence Justinian, "seen wisdom become foolish through an excess of love." We have, he says, seen the Son of God become as it were a fool, through the excessive love which He bore to men.

Such, too, was the language of the Gentiles when they heard the apostles preaching that Jesus Christ suffered death for the love of men. "But we," says St. Paul, "preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews indeed a stumbling block, unto the Gentiles foolishness." (1 Cor. i. 23.)

Who, they exclaimed, can believe that a God, most happy in Himself, and who stands in need of no one, should take human flesh and die for the love of men, who are His creatures? This would be to believe that a God became foolish for the love of men.

God Dies for Man! :

"It appears folly," says St. Gregory, "that the author of Life should die for men." But, whatever infidels may say or think, it is of faith that the Son of God has shed all His blood for the love of us, to wash away the sins of our souls. At the sight of the crucifix, St. Francis of Paul could do nothing but exclaim, love! love! love!

## Eucharist -- Gives His Body and Blood:

"Having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them unto the end." (John xiii.

1.) This loving Lord was not content with showing us His love by dying on the cross for our salvation; but, at the end of His life, He wished to leave us His own very flesh for the food of our souls, that thus He might unite Himself entirely to us. "Take ye and eat, this is My body." (Matt. xxvi. 26.)

Sermons by St. Alphonsus de Liguori

# The Happiness Of Receiving The Sacrament Of Penance Worthily

My child, the Gospel tells us that Jesus Christ all His lifetime went about doing good. He cured those who were sick; He raised the dead to life; He con soled those who suffered, and, above all, tried to bring back those who had gone astray in sin. Read the following example: