



# 1<sup>ST</sup> SATURDAY DEVOTION NEWSLETTER

November 2014

## In this Issue

The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed	1
Highlights of the Month	3
Knowing Our Saints	8
God Touched Me	9
Spiritual Enrichment Recommended	
Thank You	12
Spiritual Army News Dispatch	13
Devotion Schedule	

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## THE COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

*I shall raise him on the last day. (John 6:40)*

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A young man whose mother had recently died was walking down the street one day when he spied a newspaper that grabbed his attention. One of the headlines was a name -- the same name as his mother's. On another day, he walked into a restaurant and heard a song playing. It was his mother's favorite song. He began to think that these two incidents were much more than coincidences. They were reminders to him that God was taking care of his mom -- and that his mother was still watching over him!

Stories like these are more commonplace than you may think. It seems that God enjoys sending us reminders of our loved ones who have gone to be with him. And why not? It's only natural that the One who created us and sustains us should want to comfort us as well.

We can also take comfort in the knowledge that God does not want any one of his children to be lost (John 6:39). His plans for all of us extend beyond this life and into eternity.

On the feast of All Souls, we remember God's great mercy on all our loved ones who have died. This can be a tender subject for us, especially if we have recently lost someone close to us. The pain of that loss may still be fresh in our hearts. So it is helpful to know that "the souls of the just are in the hand of God" (Wisdom 3:1). He has them, and even if they still need some purification, they are on the path to heaven.

As you remember those you have lost, remember the cross of Christ. Thank Jesus for conquering death, rising victorious, and opening the gates of heaven. If you are still grieving or if today's observance brings up old memories, let the message of the cross give you comfort and peace. Hold fast to Jesus' promise. Rejoice in his power to raise us all up to be in his presence. ☐

*"Lord, shine your everlasting light on all my departed loved ones. May they find rest in your loving arms. Thank you for giving everything so that we can live forever with you in heaven!"*



# OVERVIEW FOR THE MONTH

[www.catholicculture.org](http://www.catholicculture.org)

The month of November is dedicated to the Souls in Purgatory, whose feast is celebrated on November 2. With the exception of the last Sunday, November falls during the liturgical season known as Ordinary Time and is represented by the liturgical color green. The last Sunday, which marks the beginning of the Advent season, the liturgical color changes to purple, representing a time of penance.

During November, as in all of Ordinary Time (Time After Pentecost), the Liturgy signifies and expresses the regenerated life from the coming of the Holy Spirit, which is to be spent on the model of Christ's

Life and under the direction of His Spirit. As we come to the end of the Church year we are asked to consider the end times, our own as well as the world's. The culmination of the liturgical year is the Feast of Christ the King. "This feast asserts the supreme authority of Christ over human beings and their institutions . . . . Beyond it we see Advent dawning with its perspective of the Lord's coming in glory." — The Liturgy and Time, A.G. Mortimort ☐

## FEASTS FOR NOVEMBER

The feasts on the General Roman Calendar celebrated during the month of November are:

- 1 All Saints, Solemnity
- 2 All Souls, Feast
- 3 Martin de Porres, Opt. Mem.
- 4 Charles Borromeo, Memorial
- 9 Lateran Basilica, Feast
- 10 Leo the Great, Memorial
- 11 Martin of Tours; Veterans Day (USA), Memorial
- 12 Josaphat, Memorial
- 13 Frances Xavier Cabrini, Memorial
- 15 Albert the Great, Opt. Mem.
- 16 Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Sunday
- 17 Elizabeth of Hungary, Memorial

- 18 Churches of Peter and Paul; Rose Philippine Duchesne (USA), Opt. Mem.
- 21 Presentation of Mary, Memorial
- 22 Cecilia, Memorial
- 23 Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe , Solemnity
- 24 Andrew Dung-Lac and Companions, Memorial
- 25 Catherine of Alexandria, Opt. Mem.
- 30 First Sunday of Advent, Sunday

The feasts of Sts. Margaret of Scotland and Gertrude (November 16), Sts. Clement I and St. Columban (November 23), and St. Andrew (November 30) are superseded by the Sunday Liturgy. ☐

### OUR CENACLE CORNER

*Seeking a deeper relationship with God  
through meditation of passages from Holy Scriptures*

#### **Our Relationship with God Who do you think I am to you?**

Leviticus 19:3  
Jeremiah 29:11  
Luke 9:18-22  
Matthew 7:7-9  
2 Corinthians 5:17-18

# HIGHLIGHT OF THE MONTH

## THE MUSEUM OF THE POOR SOULS IN PURGATORY

Margaret C. Galitzin  
[www.traditioninaction.org](http://www.traditioninaction.org)

On a visit to Rome, a good friend who lived there promised she would show me something amazing that many tourists never find. It is the Piccolo Museum of the Poor Souls in Purgatory. It is comprised of one large display case on a single wall tucked in the back of the Chiesa del Sacro Cuore del Suffragio – the Church of the Sacred Heart of the Suffrage.

### THE CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART IN ROME, DEDICATED TO THE POOR SOULS

It is just a short distance from the Vatican, on the street that runs parallel to the Tiber, the Lungotevere. If you are



in Rome, it is well worth taking the time to see it.

The Church itself is a brilliant gothic jewel amid the otherwise heavy Renaissance churches in Rome. Inside, its three naves are crowned with altars to the Saints. Outside, its central tower soars above the rest, points to Heaven moving the soul upward.

Over the entryway is a marble relief sculpture of the Poor Souls, who also look upward with hope, for Heaven is their destined home after their time of suffering is over. They look upward seeking relief. Catholic doctrine teaches us that Purgatory is a place of suffering, where souls atone for their sins.

These souls were permitted by God to return to earth to ask family members or friends for prayers or Masses and leave behind some evidence of their suffering. Thus, they



give testimony for Catholics of all epochs that Purgatory exists, a physical place of fire and suffering.

### ORIGIN OF THE MUSEUM

In the 19th century, under the influence of the Enlightenment, 'modern' minds were already doubting these truths of the Catholic Faith. One good defense of the Faith came from a French priest, Fr. Victor Jouet of the Order of the Sacred Heart -- founded in 1854 by Fr. Jules Chevalier with the purpose of saying Masses and prayers for the repose of the Poor Souls.

In 1897, the Order in Rome had a chapel dedicated to Our Lady of the Rosary. On September 15, the chapel caught fire.

When it subsided, the clear image of a suffering face, portraying a soul in Purgatory, was noticed on one charred wall. This impressed Fr. Jouet deeply, and he became interested in finding other concrete evidence of manifestations of the souls in Purgatory to those living on earth.



With the support of Pope St. Pius X, Fr. Jouet traveled throughout Belgium, France, Germany and Italy, collecting these relics – proofs of the existence of Purgatory – to house in the Gothic Church that the Order was building to replace their chapel in Rome.

The Small Museum officially opened to the public the same year the Church opened for worship in 1917. Fr. Jouet's successor, Fr. Gilla Gremigni, closed the museum in 1920, supposedly to give him time to authenticate the pieces. It remained shut for 30 years.

*Continued on Page 5*

# THE CHURCH'S THANKSGIVING DAY

*by Fr. Joseph Minihan*

We may describe All Saints' feast as the Church's Thanksgiving Day. For today we combine worship of God with family reunion: "Let us all rejoice in the Lord, and keep a feast in honor of all the Saints; the angels rejoice in this solemn occasion and join in praising the Son of God." The Introit carries the right note of happiness, which continues throughout the Mass.

## THE MASS, HOLIDAYS, AND HALLOWMAS

The Mass has left its mark on our language in several named days that date back to Catholic feasts in Anglo Saxon times. These were the principal holidays in pre-Reformation England, when the only reason that could win workers a rest was the worship of God on holy days. Best known is Christmas, the Mass of the infant Christ. But there are others: Candlemas, the feast of Our Lady's Purification, when candles were blessed; March 25th was sometimes referred to as Marymass; Lammas, or Loaf Mass, was the harvest festival on August 1; Michaelmas, the archangel's day, September 29; Martinmas, November 11, feast of St. Patrick's uncle; goose-summer, when geese were plentiful -- it gives us the word gossamer; and today, Hallowmas.

Hallow meant "holy one," hence the name All Hallows for All Saints. Pope Gregory IV arranged this feast for the universal Church more than eleven hundred years ago. His intention was to comply with a general desire that none of God's great friends should be neglected.

The Church is a family, but Christians in different places had their special preferences. Rome venerated its Apostles, and all Christendom joined in that. But Milan had martyrs, too. Then there were the French with Saints Denis, Martha, Mary, and Lazarus; the apostles of England, Scotland and Ireland; Wales also; and the men who had brought the faith to Germany and northern Europe. In Greece and Asia Minor was no end to the number of saints. No one could name them all, but one feast could include them all.

## MARTYRS, SAINTS, AND THE BEATITUDES

In view of the blessings pronounced by Our Lord in the gospel of the Beatitudes, the high regard Christians had for their brethren in heaven is perfectly understandable. These were God's tested and proven friends: "in the sight of the unwise they seemed to die, but they are in peace" (Offertory). Triumphant over death was their first mark of holiness. Just as Christ died to give witness to his Father, His Apostles were allowed the privilege of martyrs as true witnesses unto death.

The early persecutions brought the blessing of martyrdom to a vast army of men and women. Their names were recorded in lists, or diptychs, and as far as possible the anniversaries of their entry into heaven was kept. On

martyrs' days, bishops led their people to the tombs and offered Mass over the tombs of God's heroes; this is the origin of burying small relics of martyrs in the altar stone. And during the Mass bishops mentioned the names of their special martyrs.

The saints mentioned in the Canon of the Mass are the Apostles, Popes, St. Cyprian (who actually had a dispute with Pope St. Stephen), Lawrence the Deacon, and two doctors, Cosmas and Damian -- all martyrs. After the Consecration, a second list mentions famous women on the martyr list at Rome: Lucy, Agnes, Cecilia, and St. Anastasia, remembered in the second Mass of Christmas day, even when this is sung solemnly -- a special distinction.

Saints who are not martyrs do not appear in the Ordinary of the Mass. The Queen of Martyrs, our Lady, is naturally mentioned, and Apostle John also; he would rank with the Twelve in any case, even though he had not been twice subjected to persecution that should have brought death; and great St. John the Baptist.

Martyrs are those whom St. John saw "clothed in white robes, and with palms in their hands" (Epistle). "These are they who have come out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb" (Apoc. 7, 14). But there is a multitude of other saints in heaven.

## ALL THE MEN AND WOMEN SAINTS OF GOD

St. Joseph, foster-father of Jesus, leads today's procession of men and women saints of God. None is left out. The friends Jesus had on earth: Lazarus, whom he raised from the dead and whose home he visited; Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea who buried him; Simon of Cyrene who helped with the cross; the faithful women, Martha and Mary; and Dismas, the repentant thief.

The public cult of even these New Testament saints became popular only when persecution had largely ceased. Then the Church was able peacefully to appreciate her blessings. She found them in the heroism not only of martyrs at death, but of those who excelled in the virtues of the gospel just read. God's single-minded enthusiasts, the poor in spirit, including popes and bishops, earn the title of blessed with those who suffered persecution. Merciful kings and judges trembled at their responsibility before God, and the humble earned blessing. Men and women who mourned in life rejoice and exult now in heaven. Our family there is glorious with endless praise and thanksgiving to God. □

Today, the pilgrim to Rome can still see the dozen or so approved exhibits, but perhaps not for long. In the 1990's there was discussion at the Vatican about closing the Museum. In view of the New Theology that has triumphed since Vatican II, many Vatican theologians deny the teaching of Purgatory as a physical place of suffering. For the time being, however, the Museum remains open, although the pilgrim must usually make a special inquiry to see it. Just ask to see "il museo," and you will be guided to the display case.

**MARKS OF THE POOR SOULS**

Let me show you a few of those impressive and precious artifacts.



In one exhibit, we see a mark made by the deceased Mrs. Leleux on the sleeve of her son Joseph's shirt when she appeared to him on the night of June 21, 1789, at Wodecq, Belgium. Her son later related that for 11 consecutive nights, he had been awakened in the night by frightening noises.

On the 12th night, his

mother appeared to him to remind him of his duty to have Masses said for her soul in compliance with the terms of a legacy left him by his father. Then she reproached him for his way of life and beseeched him to change his behavior and to practice his Catholic Faith.

Before she disappeared, she placed her hand on the sleeve of his nightshirt, leaving a clear impression. Joseph Leleux was converted and later founded a pious congregation for the laity.

The second demonstration shows a prayer book of George Schitz, which bears the singed fingerprints of his deceased brother Joseph.



He appeared to George on December 31, 1838, at Sarrabe in Lorraine, France, and asked for prayers. Joseph told his brother that he was making expiation in Purgatory for his lack of piety during his life on earth.

Before he disappeared, he touched George's prayer book, from which his brother had been praying, with his right hand, leaving burn marks.

In another exhibit, you can see the mark left on the copy of The Imitation of Christ that belonged to Margherite Demmerlé of Ellinghen Parish in the Diocese of Metz by her mother-in-law.

She appeared to Margherite in 1815, 30 years after her death in 1785, dressed as a pilgrim in the region's traditional dress. She was coming down the stairs with a sad face, as if she were looking for something, Margherite told her parish priest. When Margherite asked her who she was, she answered, "I am your mother-in-law who died in childbirth 30 years ago. Go on a pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady



of Mariental and have two Masses said for me there."

When Marguerite asked her for a sign, she put her hand on the copy of The Imitation of Christ

her daughter-in-law

was reading and left burn marks of her fingers. After Marguerite made the pilgrimage and the Masses were said, she appeared to her again to tell her that she had been released from Purgatory. This was all documented by her parish priest.

Since this is November, the month of Poor Souls, next week I will continue the tour of our Piccolo Museo del Purgatorio in Rome and look at several other proofs of the existence of Purgatory housed there. I hope this demonstration will encourage all my readers to say prayers and offer Masses for the souls of their relatives and friends, as well as for all the suffering souls in Purgatory.

After viewing some of the exhibits in the Museum of the Poor Souls in Purgatory in Rome, several readers asked me how a Poor Soul, a pure spirit, could appear in body to persons on earth and leave behind concrete proof of their suffering.

There is no great difficulty in explaining how the souls of the dead (whether blessed in Heaven, suffering in Purgatory or damned in Hell) can appear in bodily form on earth. The Church teaches that, with God's permission, a spirit can assume some material substance in order to represent itself to the human eye, whether that substance be a body or light rays or some kind of cloud or vapor. <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Cf. St. Thomas Aquinas, Summa Theologica, I, q.51, a.2, ad.3, in Antonio Royo Marin, The Theology of Christian Perfection, p. 579-580. Martin Luther

## **INSIDE THE CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART OF SUFFRAGE IN ROME**

Thus we have artifacts like those in the Small Museum, duly approved by the Church, that resulted from apparitions of Poor Souls who were allowed to return to earth to solicit prayers, ask for Masses or warn their loved ones to change their lives.

What the Church prohibits is to try to enter into contact with the souls of the dead, as Deuteronomy warns us: Let no one be found among you who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead. (18:10-11) The Church teaches us that, under these circumstances, the Devil -- also a pure spirit -- can take on bodily forms in order to deceive those who follow such practices. Because it is so easy to be fooled, the faithful must exercise extreme caution in any matter dealing with apparitions of spirits or invoking them to appear.

In my last article, I promised to continue the tour of the Small Museum of Poor Souls on the Lungotevere neighborhood in the Prati section of the street that runs parallel to the Tiber. So let me fulfill my promise by looking at several more interesting exhibits.

### **A HANDPRINT BURNED INTO WOOD**

One of the most impressive exhibits is a rectangular slab of wood that displays two burn marks -- a scorched hand mark and a sign of the cross. These marks were left on a small wooden table by the deceased Fr. Panzini, former Abbot on the Benedictine Olivetan Order in Mantua. On November 1, 1731, Fr. Panzini appeared to Mother Isabella Fornari, Abbess of the Poor Clares Monastery of St. Francis in Todi as she sat at her work desk. He told her he was suffering in Purgatory.

### **THE HANDPRINT AND CROSS LEFT BY FR. PANZINI**

As evidence of his state, he placed his flaming hand on the table top and left a hand mark, and then he etched a cross on it with his finger. Before he disappeared, he touched the sleeve of her tunic with his right hand, leaving a burn mark on the tunic that passed through it, the chemise beneath it, and all the way to the flesh. There is also a clear mark on the chemise, which is stained with blood from the burn Mother Fornari received. The tunic and chemise are displayed in another exhibit.

The Abbess reported this visit to Fr. Isidoro Gazata, a Holy Cross father, and he ordered her to cut from her tunic and chemise the parts where the burn marks were made and to give them to him to keep. He also preserved the tabletop with the scorched hand mark and cross. These artifacts were examined by theologians and other experts of the Diocese, and determined to be of supernatural origin.

When Fr. Victor Jouet began his search at the beginning of the 20th century to find evidence of vestiges left by the Poor Souls in Purgatory, the Monastery gave him all of these relics, which were duly authenticated and are now

displayed in the Small Museum. This collection, as I noted in my previous article, was part of the legacy he left his Order of the Sacred Heart of Suffrage, which was founded with the aim of spreading the devotion to the Sacred Heart as a source of help to the souls in Purgatory, according to the revelations of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque.

### **EXPIATION FOR HER LACK OF PATIENCE**

On the night of June 5, 1894, the deceased Sister Maria of St. Louis Gonzaga, known for her piety, appeared to Sister Margherita, another nun in Poor Clares Convent of St. Clare in Bastia, Perugia. To the surprise of Sister Margherita, Sister Maria said that she was in Purgatory.

As recorded in the Convent annals, Sister Maria had been suffering greatly from tuberculosis, high temperature, coughs and asthma. She became depressed and prayed that she might die quickly so as not to endure such suffering. She died a holy death a few days later, on the morning of June 5, 1894.

It was that same night that she appeared to Sister Margherita dressed in her Poor Clare habit. Although the atmosphere around her was hazy, Sister Margherita could recognize her. Sister Maria told her that she was in Purgatory to expiate for her lack of patience in accepting God's will, and she asked for prayers.

As a proof of her apparition, she placed her forefinger on the pillow of Sister Margherita, leaving a scorch mark, and promised to return. In fact, she appeared again to the same nun on June 20 and 25 to thank her for her prayers and to tell her she would be released from Purgatory. She also offered some spiritual advice for the community.



## FINGERPRINTS ON A PRAYER BOOK

On March 5, 1871, Palmira Rastelli, who had died on December 28, 1870, appeared to her friend Maria Zaganti. She asked Maria to tell her brother, Fr. Sante Rastelli, to have Masses said for her soul because she was



suffering in Purgatory.

Palmira left proof of her appearance by touching the cover of Maria's prayer book. Three scorched finger marks can be seen on it.

### A PLACE OF FIRE AND EXPIATION

What is clear from these examples is there is fire in Purgatory, as in Hell. But in Purgatory, the soul suffers with perfect resignation, knowing that it is heading to Heaven. Anna Katharina Emmerick (d.1824) had frequent contacts with poor souls. Describing one of her visits to Purgatory, she said:

"It is touching to see the Poor Souls so quiet and sad. Yet their faces reveal that they have joy in their hearts, because of their recollection of God's loving mercy. On a glorious throne, I saw the Blessed Virgin, more beautiful than I had ever beheld her. She said: 'I entreat you to instruct people to pray for the Suffering Souls in Purgatory, for they certainly will pray much for us out of gratitude. Prayer for these holy souls is very pleasing to God because it enables them to see Him sooner.'"

From these examples, we see that God permitted certain Suffering Souls to return to earth to ask for prayers and Masses to be said for their souls so that they might receive relief in their sufferings and end their time of expiation sooner. Surely this should stimulate us to help the Poor Souls in Purgatory, especially in these days of crisis in the Church when they are so forgotten. □

## HOW TO HELP THE HOLY SOULS IN PURGATORY INTERVIEW WITH SUSAN TASSONE

*By JOSEPH PRONECHEN*

*Article used with permission of Susan Tassone.*

Susan Tassone won't admit it, but she is one of the experts on the souls in purgatory.

Her credentials speak for her. She has written six books on the subject, among them one co-written with Father Benedict Groeschel of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal. Cardinal Ivan Dias, former prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, wrote the foreword to her latest book, which has an imprimatur, *Praying With the Saints for the Holy Souls in Purgatory*. She has recently begun her seventh book.

This week, beginning today, Monday, October 24, Tassone will be Johnnette Benkovic's guest on her EWTN television show *Women of Grace*. Tassone will be sharing some new insights about Pope St. Gregory the Great and his connection to the holy souls and purgatory. On November 2, All Souls' Day, she will be Father Mitch Pacwa's guest on EWTN Live.

She recently spoke about what we can do to help the souls in purgatory.

### ***What is the best devotion to help the souls in purgatory?***

The holy sacrifice of the Mass is the chief source of devotion for the holy souls.

So, the most powerful means to relieve or release a soul from purgatory is through the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. You'll find that in the Catechism. It says it in 1032: "From the beginning, the Church has honored the memory of the dead and offered prayers in suffrage for them, above all the Eucharistic sacrifice, so that, thus purified, they may attain the beatific vision of God."

In *Praying With the Saints for the Holy Souls in Purgatory*, I have Pope Benedict XVI's writings that point to having Masses offered for the souls in purgatory. [One extensive quote is from *Sacramentum Caritatis* (Sacrament of Charity).]

After the Mass, the next most powerful way to help the souls is the Rosary, the most powerful Marian prayer on earth — in her approved apparitions, Mary says pray the Rosary for peace in the world, in your hearts, in your family — and the Stations of the Cross, because they're indulgenced. You have to be in the state of grace to help the souls in purgatory.

When we pray for the souls, we've got to remember we're giving them paradise, the face of God, when we get them out sooner from purgatory. Our prayers are shortening this horrible suffering of being without God. They then show us their gratitude in the same proportion to their joy.

### ***You recommend Gregorian Masses be offered for souls.***

***What are they, how did they come about, and why are they important?***

Gregorian Masses are absolutely the best way to help souls out of purgatory. The background behind them is a fascinating story.

Pope St. Gregory was a sickly man and had a physician who took care of him throughout his life. The physician, named "Justus," was also a Benedictine monk in Rome, where the Church of St. Gregory remains today. When Justus was dying, St. Gregory told Justus' blood brother to take care of him because he also was a physician. While taking care of him, the brother found three gold coins in Justus' cell. Benedictines took vows of poverty, chastity and obedience.

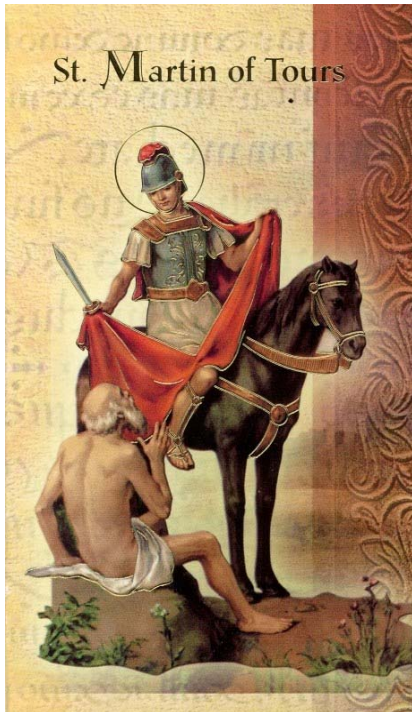
*Continued on Page 10*

# KNOWING OUR SAINTS

## ST. MARTIN OF TOURS

*Excerpted from The Church's Year of Grace, Pius Parsch  
[www.catholicculture.org](http://www.catholicculture.org)*

St. Martin was born (c. 316) at Sabaria, a town in Pannonia near the famous Benedictine monastery dedicated to his name. Against the wishes of his parents he associated with Christians and became a catechumen at the age of ten. At fifteen he entered the army and served under the Emperors Constantius and Julian. While



in the service he met a poor, naked beggar at the gates of Amiens who asked alms in Christ's Name. Martin had nothing with him except his weapons and soldier's mantle; but he took his sword, cut the latter in two, and gave half to the poor man. During the following night Christ appeared to him clothed with half a mantle and said, "Martin, the catechumen, has clothed Me with this mantle!"

Martin was eighteen years old when he received the sacrament of holy baptism. At the pleading of his superior officer, he remained two years longer in the army. Then, upon requesting dismissal, Julian accused him of cowardice. "With the sign of the Cross," Martin answered, "I shall more certainly break through the ranks of the enemy than if armed with shield and sword." When released he sought out St. Hilary, bishop of Poitiers, and was ordained. Later he was made bishop of Tours. Close to the city he built a monastery (Marmoutier), where with eighty monks he led a most holy life. On one of his numerous visits to the imperial court at Trier, a certain man besought him to help his daughter, "I firmly believe in the Lord that my daughter will be healed through your prayer." Martin healed the girl with consecrated oil. Tetradius, who witnessed this extraordinary manifestation of divine power, asked for baptism.

Martin also possessed the gift of discerning spirits. Once the devil appeared to him radiant and clothed in royal apparel, and spoke as if he were Christ. Martin, recognizing the deceit, replied, "The Lord Jesus Christ

never prophesied that He would come in purple robes and royal crown." The apparition immediately vanished. Three dead persons he raised to life. While celebrating holy Mass a luminous sphere appeared over his head. He was far advanced in age when he fell into a grievous fever during a visitation at Candès, an outlying parish of his diocese. Unceasingly he begged God to release him from this mortal prison. His disciples, however, implored him with tears, "Father, why are you leaving us? To whom will you entrust the care of your disconsolate children?" Deeply moved, Martin turned to God: "Lord, if I am still necessary for Your people, I will not refuse the labor. Your will be done!"

When the bystanders saw that despite his great fever he remained lying on his back, they besought him to change position to alleviate somewhat the pain. But Martin answered, "Brothers, rather let me look toward heaven than to earth so that my soul in its journey home may take a direct flight to the Lord." Shortly before death he saw the evil spirit. "What do you want, horrible beast? You will find nothing in me that's yours!" With those words the aged saint breathed forth his soul on November 11, 397, at the age of eighty-one.

St. Martin's feast, also known as "Martinmas" in Europe arrives in autumn, the beginning of the wine harvest. This was also the time of slaughter of the stock for winter meat. His images are usually depicted with a goose, symbolizing that Martinmas was the last festive meal before Advent, because in France in the Middle Ages, the strict 40 day Advent fast (called Quadragesima Sancti Martini or Forty Days' Fast of Saint Martin's) began the next day. So in past centuries November 11 was celebrated as a thanksgiving day. Thus it was the custom to have "St. Martin's goose" and taste the new wine ("Saint Martin's Wine") on his feast day. A quick spell of warm weather around his feast day (usually termed "Indian Summer" in the US) is known as "St. Martin's Little Summer" in Europe.

Patron: Against impoverishment; against poverty; alcoholism; beggars; Burgenland; cavalry; equestrians; France; geese; horse men; horses; hotel-keepers; innkeepers; Mainz, Germany; quartermasters; reformed alcoholics; riders; soldiers; tailors; vintners; wine growers; wine makers.

Symbols: Horse; sword and coat cut in halves; goose; scourge; hare; broken images; chair in flames; demon at his feet; globe of fire; Often Portrayed As: Man on horseback sharing his cloak with beggar; man cutting cloak in half. □



# GOD TOUCHED ME

## FATHER, FORGIVE! A STORY OF FORGIVENESS

*By Lucy, a devotee*

When Jesus taught His disciples the "Our Father", He elaborated on only one of the petitions – the one on forgiveness – "If you forgive others their transgressions, your Heavenly Father, will forgive you! But if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive you." (Mt. 6:14-15.)

I was moved by this verse in the Bible, because I experienced it myself, when I was divorced with my ex-husband of 35 years of marriage, with three grown-up children, now all married. I am a grandmother to my eldest daughter's twin boys. Let me share with you my story.

It happened to me way back in January 2008, when we had our final hearing at the Superior Court of Los Angeles, regarding the dissolution of our marriage. This only pertains to our civil marriage, because our marriage in church, has not been dissolved yet, since there was no annulment of it, in the Philippines, then.

After about six years, since my divorce, I attended a Life in the Spirit (LSS) seminar of the Bukas Loob sa Dios (BLD) Prayer Community at the Elizabeth Seaton Church Hall. It was here that I had experienced a complete turn-around of my life, as a Catholic Christian, being a "forgiving person", after receiving the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, who anointed me, as we praised and worshipped the Lord, with a change of heart.

With such change of heart, God led me to The Spiritual Army of God the Father Ministry, of which I am now a devotee. One of the Ministry's Cenacle sessions was on the meaning of the "Lord's Prayer", particularly the part where we say . . . "as we forgive those who trespass against us!" Brother Vic's teachings enlightened my mind and touched my heart. But I had a heart of stone. It was not easy to forgive my ex-husband. It has already been more than six years ago and yet, I could not let go of the hurts and pains, that was deep-seated in my heart. Forgiving him was a test, I failed often! But I kept trying, and praying. And attending more cenacle sessions of the Ministry at its 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday devotions.

Not until I learned "let go" of the pains inflicted on me by my ex-husband, and "let God" take over my unforgiving heart, only then did I start receiving even more blessings from the Lord. Now I live in peace, as I found true love in the person of a wonderful man, 15 years my senior. He understands the many challenges I have in my life. We are one in "sickness and in health". He is generous in his love and time, be it temporal or spiritual. I really thank the Lord, for giving me this older man but so young

at heart because he showers me with so much love and affection, which I never had with my former husband.

As we walk thru our lives, we become so unworthy of God's graces because of our sins, our transgressions, and wrong decisions. I seem to be skillful at giving myself reasons why I shouldn't and/or can't forgive my former husband! I had my insecurities, my pride. I had fears of what people will say or think about me, because I had been betrayed by my ex-husband, who was not only a "womanizer", he also fathered a child with another woman in the Philippines, long before he joined me here in California. And he managed to keep this under my nose until this child needed college tuition assistance.

May this story of forgiveness be an inspiration to those women or men who carry the same marriage burdens I carried. May this story be a call for them to "let go" of any deep-seated hurts, and to forgive from their inner hearts and "let God" be God!

I have learned that unforgiveness is one of the major reasons why many people's answers to prayers are delayed. Faith works by love. Love is not bothered by trivial matters. Love overlooks them. Love forgives them. Love lets them go. When you truly love somebody, you forget his or her failures and mistakes. That's what the Word says, God does with us. He (God the Father) forgives us of our sins and He forgives them – it's as if we have never sinned. Without forgiveness, it is impossible to live your faith.

God demands that we act like Him by forgiving those who have offended us. He knows that forgiveness frees the anguished heart and removes the toxins that endangers it. It is only in the process of forgiving that we truly understand and experience the depth of God's love and mercy! ☐

***If you have any personal articles  
on God's miracle in your life  
you want to share with the devotees,  
we may be reached at  
the following e-mail addresses  
and phone numbers:  
[evelyn.pua@spiritualarmyofgod.org](mailto:evelyn.pua@spiritualarmyofgod.org)  
[alice.a@spiritualarmyofgod.org](mailto:alice.a@spiritualarmyofgod.org)  
(702) 274-4315 and/or (213) 385-7798.***

## HOW TO HELP THE SOULS IN PURGATORY

The brother told the monks, and they told St. Gregory. He was really upset because he expected the monks to take the vow seriously. Because Justus violated the vow of poverty, Gregory would not allow any of the monks to visit him during his last illness and console or pray with him. Justus was crushed. He wept and was repentant for keeping the coins.

Gregory knew he was in purgatory. He ordered 30 Masses to be said for the soul of Justus. Why 30? Why not 40 or 50 Masses?

The reason is: Gregory was bringing back the tradition from the Old Testament — Israelites mourning for the dead 30 days, such as for Moses and Aaron.

After the 30th Mass, Justus appeared to his blood brother and said he was released from purgatory. The brother had no idea Masses were being said for Justus. He ran to the monastery and told the monks, who told St. Gregory, who already knew because he already had a private revelation that Justus was released from purgatory.

Word spread all over Rome. People came to the monastery to have Masses said for their loved ones — then priests from France and Spain, and then priests from all over came to Rome to offer Masses at that altar for their loved ones. That altar still exists to this day in the Church of Sts. Andrew and Gregory in Rome. These first Gregorian Masses were offered at this altar.

The altar has three panels, all in relief carvings and engraved in Latin saying St. Gregory had freed the soul of this monk by 30 Masses. The middle panel shows our suffering Lord appearing to Gregory at the altar. The third panel says, in Latin, that St. Gregory is offering Masses in this room to release souls from purgatory. It's strikingly beautiful. I will show pictures of the altar on Father Pacwa's show.

### ***Is there a guarantee a soul gets released after the 30 Masses?***

Although the practice is approved by the Church, there is no official guarantee. Still, it is a custom that underscores the power of the holy Mass.

### ***A parish normally will not be able to offer 30 consecutive Masses for the same soul. Where can we get Gregorian Masses said?***

You can see where on my website, SusanTassone.com.

### ***Why do we need constant reminders to have Masses said for the dead and offer prayers for them? Why pray for the holy souls?***

Because God's justice demands expiation of their sins. Christ told St. Faustina that his mercy didn't want to send a soul to purgatory, but his justice demands it (Diary 1226, 20).

He places in our hand the means to assist them. We are their only resource. We have an obligation to pray for our loved ones.

### ***Can we say that one goes straight to heaven? Can we say that soul was totally pure and holy and in line with God's will to go to heaven at once?***

We don't know what the state of the soul was at the hour of death, and we tend to canonize everybody. Only God knows the state of the soul, if it is totally in line with his will. He's all-holy and majestic and pure.

But we're given this great power and privilege to release souls from purgatory. Only we are the deliverers. Christ turns to the Church militant. Heaven encourages us. For whatever reason, we've been given this great honor and privilege. We're responsible to pray for our dead.

### ***But what happens if the soul then gets to heaven and you continue to have Masses and prayers offered?***

The common answer is that God will apply those Masses to other souls in purgatory or to the most in need or souls in your family. But there's more: If the soul is already in heaven, and you continue to have Masses said for them and continue to pray for them, what they get is a term we get from Thomas Aquinas — "accidental glory."

The soul gets an increase in its intimacy with God and an increase in its intercessory power. So the lesson is this: Never stop praying for your dead, no matter how long they've been gone. You continue to push them up higher. The prayers are never wasted. God is never outdone in generosity.

### ***Why do you often point out the importance of having Masses offered while the person is alive, including Masses for yourself?***

I asked Father Edward McNamara, well-known professor of liturgy at the Regina Apostolorum in Rome about that.

There are three main reasons why Masses should be offered for loved ones while alive. First, it's an infinite gift. It never stops giving. A living person is still capable of growing in sanctifying grace, so the effect of this incredible grace is they may willingly receive it to be more Christ-like. You have to respond. When you have Masses offered for loved ones and you pray, they respond to the grace.

Second, if it's offered as intercession for a person in the state of actual mortal sin, it may supply the grace necessary for conversion.

Third, it also fits in the sanctity of healing people.

Who do you miss the most? Who do you wish you could have done more for? Who helped you spiritually and temporally? Who had a major impact on your life? Your enemies or those who hurt you: Have Masses said for them. Have Masses said for yourself. Mass heals the living and deceased. Pray for the living now, for their eternity.

Purgatory points to the seriousness of sin and points out we have to pray and do penance in our own lives.

The Catechism says, in 958, "Our prayer for them is capable not only of helping them, but also of making their intercession for us effective." They can't help themselves, but they can pray for us. So, the more we pray for them, the more effective their intercession is for us.

***Why are they called poor souls and holy souls?***

They're called poor because their poverty is the loss of the sight of God. They're called poor because they can no longer merit; they can't help themselves. They rely totally on us. We're their only resource.

Nothing is done alone. The Church Militant reaches out to the Church Suffering and joins them to the Church Triumphant.

And they're called the holy souls because they can no longer sin. They know they're saved. They know heaven is awaiting them.

***Can you tell us about the new book you're working on?***

This next book takes it into the deeper level mining purgatory. We will be talking about the will of God. It will be a comprehensive prayer book for souls in purgatory, along with thoughts on purgatory and nine reflections on purgatory from saints like Aquinas to Gregory to Catherine of Genoa; and it will include writings of Blessed John Paul II on purgatory.

***How can we avoid purgatory?***

St. John of the Cross said, "God provides." So avoid sin. Pray the Rosary. Go to monthly confession. Accept trials. Forgive. The more you pray on earth — constant, fervent prayer throughout life — the closer you will be to getting out of purgatory if you go there.

***Do the souls in purgatory help us in this regard?***

Because of their great love for us, they're not only anxious for leaving purgatory, they're most concerned about our salvation, especially the salvation of their loved ones. They can intercede for us while in purgatory. Their prayers help us recognize our sins and help us understand the malice of sins. And so they reproach us through inspirations of the Holy Spirit. They want us to become holy and saints here. They don't want us to go to the true purgatory.

***Do you have any other advice? Perhaps for educating children that seems especially appropriate with Halloween and All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day coming up?***

Pray for the dying. Pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy for them. Your prayer can give a soul the grace of final repentance. Join the Pious Union of St. Joseph for the Dying.

November 1-8 you can receive a plenary indulgence when you visit a cemetery on those days and apply it to a soul in purgatory.

Remember the children. Teach them the meaning of All Souls' Day. Take them to the cemeteries. Teach them to sprinkle holy water on the graves. Plant the seed of reverence for the dead, and, in due time, this will assure us of their aid.

We need to learn from purgatory, avoid purgatory and empty purgatory. □

***I am your Mother Mary.***

***Today I ask you to pray for the souls of those who are taken and will be taken from this world in this time of cleansing. My heart is saddened and bleeding for many will be taken, my children. This part of the world is cleansing of the hearts. Pray with your hearts, my children and let them be heard at the throne of God Almighty, in the right hand of the Father, my Son Jesus.***

***Signs are everywhere in the heavens and even in the instrument of cleansing and strife. It will happen but you see it passes. Continue the prayer deep in your sincere hearts for God listens. Several moons will pass before the actual cleansing will start at its peak.***

***Pray, pray, pray my children and fast for penance. Pray for the Holy Father and the servants of the church who would guide my Son's church. Let them think that the whole purpose of God's promise of salvation are for all humankind not just the chosen few who will try to deviate from the true meaning of God's creation and union of man and his wife in an everlasting togetherness strengthened by the very Sacrament that my Son instituted.***

***Pray my children with your heart and with a burning desire in your soul and spirit. I will be with you in this Passover of the angel of cleansing.***

***Mary, Your Lady of Hope  
100414***

## SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT RECOMMENDED

- You are enjoined to practice Eucharistic Adoration at least an hour a week. Let us render God adoration, thanksgiving, reparation and petition. Kindly check with your respective parishes for schedules. Some churches are open 24-hours for Eucharistic Adoration.
- Pray at least one rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary daily.
- Pray the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy at 3:00 PM and at 9:00 PM daily.
- Pray the Angelus at 6:00 PM daily.
- Pray the Pro-Life Scriptural Rosary [[www.rosaryoftheunborn.com](http://www.rosaryoftheunborn.com)] to make reparation for the crime of abortion.
- Think of ways to make reparation to Mary for the sins committed against Jesus and Mary. A very good one is to join the **First Saturday devotion**; another is the **2000 Hail Mary devotion**.
- Do pious practices to help the Poor Souls: attend three Masses for the Poor Souls on November 2; remember your family and friends who are deceased and make an extra sacrifice for them; pray the rosary for the most forgotten soul in purgatory.
- Invite someone to dinner who has no place to go for Thanksgiving.
- If you have no other commitments volunteer to help serve Thanksgiving dinner at a place which is serving the poor.

## THANK YOU

*... a small and simple phrase that comes from a grateful heart!*

*Psalm 106:2*

### FOR PRAYERS HEARD AND PETITIONS GRANTED

Thank you, Eternal Father, for Your Will that transformed our sorrow into joy, our tears of anguish into tears of thanksgiving. Our physical and spiritual re-creation, through Your Healing Hands, kept us enclosed and revived in our hope for renewed lives as we look up to the heavens praising You, in Jesus' most Holy Name, through the intercession of Mary, our Blessed Mother, and of the angels and saints.

*Our devotee, Frank Lim, would like to thank the Prayer Warriors for their prayers. By God's grace, the swelling on his knee has subsided significantly and has improved so much!*

*Thank you dear Infant Jesus for hearing and granting our prayers for all of the pilgrims' needs and for incessantly guiding us in all our preparations for this journey seeking You in your Mother's Apparition Sites and Sacred Places!*

*Your Grateful Helpers*

### 2000 HAIL MARY DEVOTION

The Spiritual Army of God the Father acknowledges with thanks our generous November sponsors of the 2000 Hail Mary Devotion. We are grateful that we have merited their partnership and support in providing a venue of spirituality and fellowship for the devotees of our Blessed Mother. The devotion continues to be a constant success.

#### Las Vegas, Nevada

Laddie & Gertrude Regalado

#### Los Angeles, California

Gertrudes Asuncion | Marilyn Batino  
Linda Cruz | Andresa Johnson  
Regina Lim | Cora Pablico |

Linda Cruz & Cora Pablico  
Coordinators

### ERRATUM

THE OCTOBER ISSUE OF THIS NEWSLETTER INDICATED LUCY GINETE AS ONE OF THE SPONSORS INSTEAD OF LUZ ORTIZ. OUR APOLOGIES TO LUZ ORTIZ.

# SPIRITUAL ARMY NEWS DISPATCH

## A DAY OF RECOLLECTION

The Spiritual Army of God the Father, Las Vegas Chapter sponsored a Day of Recollection on Saturday, October 25, 2014 from 9:00 AM thru 4:00 PM at the Cenacle House on 8455 West Sahara Avenue, Unit 172, Las Vegas, Nevada.

This Day of Recollection mirrored the one attended by the Maryknoll Affiliates on September 18, 2014 at St. Therese Mission Church in Tecopa, California with Fr. Joel Aquino as Retreat Master. Some of the Maryknoll Affiliates members who are also members of The Spiritual Army of God the Father decided to share what they have learned regarding the Great Commission as mentioned in Matthew 28:16-20 and related it to Our Mission and the Christian Community with The Ignatian Spirituality as its foundation.

The day started with a talk session followed by a group workshop and sharing where each devotee was asked to say something about how they see themselves in relation to our mission objectives. After the sharing, a group discussion followed to recapitulate the thoughts, concerns and feelings of all the attendees consisting of eight devotees. This small number enabled everyone to participate in the group sharing. The group prayed to the Holy Spirit and then drew lots to get their assignments as Sheep and Shepherd in which each devotee was a shepherd to one and a sheep to another. The session ended with a Liturgical celebration with Fr. Ric as the celebrant and blessings of the newly commissioned disciples who have given their YES to God. Each sheep was prayed over by their respective shepherd.

The Recollection Day was sealed with a promise as the devotees sang "They Will Know We are Christians" and prayed "Go And Make of All Disciples.." At three o'clock, everyone prayed the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy. ☐

## OUR NOVEMBER WISHES FOR ALL

Since our December, 2014 issue of the newsletter will not be circulated due to the upcoming pilgrimage, we send you these greetings:

**MAY GOD BLESS US ALL THIS THANKSGIVING DAY!**



**And may you have a very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous and Blessed New Year!!! ☐**



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**TOY DRIVE FOR THE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL [ONGOING]**

**1<sup>ST</sup> SATURDAY DEVOTION FOR DECEMBER 2014 AND BLESSING FOR PILGRIMS NOVEMBER 22, 2014**  
MASS AT 8:30 AM | POTLUCK BREAKFAST | DEVOTIONAL PRAYERS  
CONVENT OF THE SISTER DISCIPLES OF THE DIVINE MASTER ON BEAUDRY & SUNSET

**1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY DEVOTION FOR DECEMBER 2014 NOVEMBER 23, 2014**  
DEVOTIONAL PRAYERS AT 12:30 PM  
MASS AT 1:15 PM

**PILGRIMAGE TO MOTHER MARY'S APPARITION SHRINES PORTUGAL | SPAIN | FRANCE**  
DECEMBER 4-21, 2014  
DAILY ACTIVITIES AND OTHER INFORMATION ARE AVAILABLE AT [WWW.SPIRITUALARMYOFGOD.ORG](http://WWW.SPIRITUALARMYOFGOD.ORG)

# DEVOTION SCHEDULE



## THE SPIRITUAL ARMY OF GOD THE FATHER

cordially invites you to the following devotions:

### IN LOS ANGELES:

#### 1st Saturday Devotion

The Convent of the Sister Disciples of the Divine Master | 501 N. Beaudry Avenue | (213) 250-7962  
Holy Mass starts at 8:30 A.M. | 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday Devotional Prayers follow.

#### Devotion to God the Father

Every 1st Sunday of the Month | The Monastery of the Angels | 1977 Carmen Avenue on Gower | (323) 466-2186  
12:30 P.M. - Rosary to the Father | 1:15 P.M. - Holy Mass  
2:00 P.M. - Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

#### 2000 Hail Mary Devotion – November 15, 2014

at the Convent of the Sister Disciples of the Divine Master | starting at 8:30 a.m.  
*Please call Victor at (213) 385-7798 if you wish to become a Sponsor of the 2000 Hail Mary Devotion.*

### IN LAS VEGAS:

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday Devotion

at The Cenacle House in The Enclave | 8455 West Sahara Avenue #172, | Las Vegas, NV 89117 at 1:00 PM  
Cenacle will be at 10:00 AM before the devotional prayers.

*Please call Evelyn at (702)274-4315 for entry to The Enclave or for more information.*

#### Devotion to God the Father

Every 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month from 2:00 to 3:30 P.M.

at The Cenacle House in The Enclave | 8455 West Sahara Avenue #172, | Las Vegas, NV 89117

#### 2000 Hail Mary Devotion – November 15, 2014 and December 13, 2014

*Please call (702) 255-9616 or (702) 274-4315 for  
dates and venues for the coming months or for more information or if you wish to Sponsor the Devotion.*

### IN LAUGHLIN, NEVADA:

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday Devotion

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church | 3055 El Mirage Way  
Holy Mass starts at 8:00 A.M. Devotional prayers follow.

### IN SAN DIEGO

#### Rosary to the Father

Monday – Saturday after the 8:00 A.M. Mass [Look for Iris Haj]  
St. Mary's Church | 1160 S. Broadway | Escondido, CA 92025

### IN THE PHILIPPINES

#### 2000 Hail Mary Devotion - Metro Manila Area

Letty Rollan has organized the 2000 Hail Mary Devotion in various areas of Metro Manila through the members of the "Mother Butler." Please call her U.S. Vonage phone (510) 779-6652, text her at Manila #916-384-9300, and/or call her Manila landline 939-4677. Mention Mila Lumba's name to be recognized.