

THE

KEY OF HEAVEN:

OR,

8217

A MANUAL OF PRAYER.

ILLUSTRATED WITH MORE THAN 150 HIGHLY
FINISHED ENGRAVINGS.

WITH THE APPROBATION OF
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Instructions and Devotions for the Sick.





If attacked by any serious illness, let it be your first care to send for your spiritual director, and settle the state of your soul; which is much better done at the beginning than afterwards, when the violence of the disorder, or the quality of the remedies, may render you incapable of performing so great a work. Sickness is frequently the punishment of sin, and therefore a sincere repentance and confession is often a more effectual means of recovery than any other.

2. If your Will be not already made, as in prudence it ought, let this also be done in the beginning of your sickness, that so having settled your *temporal concerns*, you may apply your soul without disturbance to your *spiritual ones*.

3. Engage your best friends to give you timely notice whether your distemper be dangerous, and not flatter you with the hopes of life, when there

are little or no grounds for hope. Make the best use possible of that time, which perhaps is to be your last. Admit but of few visits, nor of any other discourse but such as may be for the profit of your soul.

4. Be careful also to discharge your debts, and all other obligations incumbent upon you, at the beginning of your sickness: forgive those who have any ways injured you, and ask pardon of those whom you have injured.

5. Receive your sickness as coming from the hands of God, with a perfect resignation to his holy will, and as a just punishment of your offences. Frequently offer yourself up to him, and beg that he would grant you patience, sanctify your sufferings, and accept of them in union with those of Jesus Christ your Saviour, in satisfaction of the punishment due to your sins.


6. Procure some friend to read to you such prayers as are most affecting and proper for your condition: such as the Penitential Psalms, the Litanies,

Acts of the Love of God, of patience, resignation, &c.

7. Place a crucifix, or figure of Christ crucified, always before your eyes, in order to think often upon his passion: hide yourself in spirit in his wounds, and embrace his feet with the utmost affection of your soul.

8. Endeavor, as much as possible, to acquire a penitential spirit during your sickness; call often on God for mercy, and make frequent acts of contrition for your sins. St. Augustin used to say, that no Christian, however innocent his life might have been, ought to venture to die in any other state than that of a penitent.

A Daily Prayer in Time of Sickness.

ORD Jesus Christ, behold I receive this sickness, with which thou art pleased to visit me, as coming from thy fatherly hand. It is thy will it should be thus with me, and therefore I submit: *thy will be done on earth as*

it is in heaven. May this sickness be to the honor of thy holy name, and to the good of my soul. For this end, I here offer myself with an entire submission to thy appointments; to suffer whatever thou pleasest, as long, and in what manner thou pleasest. For I thy creature, O Lord, have most ungratefully offended thee, and as my sins have long since cried aloud to heaven for justice, how can I now complain of thy chastisements? No, my God, thou art just in all thy ways; I have truly deserved thy punishment, and therefore can have no reason to complain of thee, but rather of my own wickedness.

Rebuke me not, O Lord, in thy fury, nor chastise me in thy wrath; but have compassion on my weakness. Thou knowest my frailty, and that I am nothing but dust and ashes. Deal not with me, therefore, according to my sins, nor punish me according to my iniquities; but according to the multitude of thy tender mercies have compassion on me. May thy justice, O Lord, be tempered

with mercy; and let thy heavenly grace come to my assistance, to support me under this illness. Enable me with strength from above to bear all the uneasiness, pains, and difficulties of my sickness with Christian patience, and to accept them with cheerfulness, in just punishment of my offences. Preserve me from all temptations, and be thou to me a tower of strength against the assaults of the enemy, that in this illness I may no ways offend thee. And should it be my last, I beg of thee so to direct me by thy grace, that I may neither neglect nor be deprived of those helps which thou hast, in thy mercy, ordained for the safe conduct of my soul in its passage to eternity; that being perfectly cleansed from all my sins, I may believe in thee, hope in thee, love thee above all things, and, through the merits of thy death and passion, be admitted into the company of the blessed, where I may praise thee forever. Amen.

*Acts of the most necessary Virtues to
be made in Time of Sickness.*

LORD, I accept this sickness from thy hands, and resign myself entirely to thy blessed will, whether it be for life or death. Not my will, but thine be done: thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

I offer up to thee, O Lord, all that I now suffer, or may hereafter suffer, to be united to the sufferings of my Redeemer, and sanctified by his passion.

I adore thee, O my God and my All, as my first beginning and last end; and bowing down all the powers of my soul in thy presence, desire to pay thee the best homage I am able.

I desire to praise thee, O Lord, without ceasing, in sickness as well as in health: and to join my heart and voice with the whole Church in heaven and on earth, in blessing thee forever.

I give thee thanks from the bottom of my heart for all the mercies and blessings bestowed upon me and thy

whole Church, through Jesus Christ thy Son; and, above all, for his having loved me from all eternity, and redeemed me with his precious blood. O let not that blood be shed for me in vain!

Lord, I believe all those heavenly truths which thou hast revealed, and which thy holy Catholic Church believes and teaches: thou art the sovereign Truth, who neither canst deceive nor be deceived: and thou hast promised the Spirit of Truth to guide thy Church into all truth. *I believe in God the Father Almighty, &c.* In this faith I resolve, through thy grace, both to live and die: O Lord, strengthen and increase my faith.

O my God, all my hopes are centred in thee, from whom I hope for mercy, grace, and salvation, through the passion and death of my blessed Redeemer. In thee, O Lord, have I put my trust: O let me never be confounded.

O sweet Jesus, receive me into thy arms in this day of my distress: hide

me within thy wounds, bathe my soul in thy precious blood.

I love thee, O my God, with my whole heart and soul, above all things: at least, I desire so to love thee. O! come now, and take full possession of my soul, and teach me to love thee forever.

I desire to be dissolved, and to be with Christ.

When, O Lord, will thy kingdom come? When wilt thou perfectly reign in all hearts? When shall sin be no more?

I desire to embrace every neighbor in the arms of perfect charity, for the love of thee. I forgive, from my heart, all that have any ways offended or injured me, and ask pardon of all whom I have any ways offended.

Have mercy on me, O God, according to thy great mercy; and according to the multitude of thy tender mercies, blot out my iniquities.

O! who will give water to my head, and fountains of tears to my eyes, that night and day I may bewail my sins!

O! that I had never offended so good

a God! O that I had never sinned! Happy those souls that have preserved their baptismal innocence.

Lord, be merciful to me a sinner; sweet Jesus, Son of the living God, have mercy on me.

I recommend my soul to God my Creator, who made me out of nothing; to Jesus Christ my Saviour, who redeemed me with his precious blood; to the Holy Ghost, who sanctified me in baptism. Into thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

I renounce from this moment, and for all eternity, the devil and all his works; and abhor all his suggestions and temptations. Suffer not this mortal enemy of my soul, O Lord, to have any dominion over me, either now, or at my last hour. O let thy holy angels defend me from all the powers of darkness.

O holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for me a poor sinner, now, and at the hour of my death. O all ye blessed angels and saints of God, pray for me a poor sinner.

It may also be proper to read some part of the Meditations on the Passion of Christ, the Miserere, or other penitential psalms, devout acts of contrition, &c., but not too much at a time, lest it might fatigue the sick person.

A Daily Preparation for Death.

MY heart is ready, O God, my heart is ready: not my will, but thine be done. I resign myself entirely to thee, O Lord, to receive death at the time and in the manner it shall please thee to send it.

2. I most humbly ask pardon for all the sins I have committed against thy sovereign goodness, and repent of them all from the bottom of my heart.

3. I firmly believe whatsoever the holy Catholic Church believes and teaches; and by thy grace I will die in this belief.

4. I hope to possess eternal life through thy infinite mercy, and the merits of my Saviour Jesus Christ.

5. O my God, my sovereign good, I desire to love thee above all things, and to despise this miserable world. I desire to love my neighbor as myself, for the love of thee, and from my heart to forgive all injuries.

6. O my divine Jesus, how great is my desire to receive thy sacred body ! O ! come now into my soul, at least by a spiritual communion. O ! grant that I may worthily receive thee before my death ! I desire to unite my communion to all the worthy communions which shall be made in thy holy Church, even to the end of the world.

7. Grant me the grace, O my divine Saviour, perfectly to efface all the sins I have committed by any of my senses, by applying daily to my soul thy blessed merits, the holy unction of thy precious blood.

8. Holy Virgin, Mother of God, defend me from my enemies in my last hour, and present me to thy divine Son. Glorious St. Michael, prince of the heavenly host ; my angel guardian, and bles-

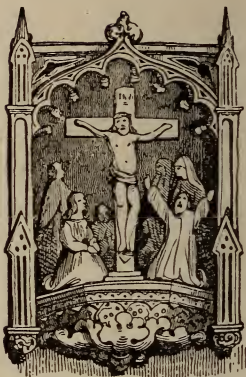
sed patrons, intercede for me, and assist me in this my last and dreadful passage.

9. O my God, I renounce all temptations of the enemy, and in general whatsoever may displease thee. I adore and accept thy divine appointments with regard to my soul, and entirely abandon myself to them as most just and equitable.

10. O Jesus, my divine Redeemer, be to me a Saviour. Save me, O my God, hiding myself with an humble confidence in thy dear wounds. I deliver my soul into thy divine hands; receive it in the bosom of thy divine mercy. Amen.



Litany for a Happy Death.



LORD Jesus, God of goodness and Father of mercies, I approach to thee with a contrite and humble heart: to thee I recommend the last hour of my life, and the decision of my eternal doom.

When my feet, benumbed with death, shall admonish me that my mortal course is drawing to the end,

When my eyes, dim and troubled at the approach of death, shall fix

Merciful Jesus, have mercy upon me.

themselves on thee, my last and only support,

When my face, pale and livid, shall inspire the beholders with pity and dismay; when my hair, bathed in the sweat of death, and stiffening on my head, shall forebode my approaching end,

When my ears, soon to be forever shut to the discourse of men, shall be open to the irrevocable decree, which is to cut me off from the living,

When my imagination, agitated by dreadful spectres, shall be sunk in an abyss of anguish; when my soul, affrighted with the sight of my iniquities and the terrors of thy judgments, shall have to fight against the angel of darkness, who will endeavor to conceal thy mercies from my eyes, and to plunge me into despair,

When my poor heart, yielding to the pressure, and exhausted by its frequent struggles against the ene-

Merciful Jesus, have mercy upon me.

mies of its salvation, shall feel the pangs of death,

When the last tear, the forerunner of my dissolution, shall drop from my eyes, receive it as a sacrifice of expiation for my sins; grant that I may expire the victim of penance, and in that dreadful moment,

When my friends and relations, encircling my bed, shall shed the tear of pity over me, and invoke thy clemency in my behalf,

When I shall have lost the use of my senses, when the world shall have vanished from my sight, when my agonizing soul shall feel the sorrows of death,

When my last sigh shall summon my soul to burst from the embraces of the body, and to spring to thee on the wings of impatience and desire,

When my soul, trembling on my lips, shall bid adieu to the world, and leave my body lifeless, pale,

Merciful Jesus, have mercy upon me.

and cold, receive this separation as a homage which I willingly pay to thy Divine Majesty, and in that last moment of my mortal life,

When at length my soul, admitted to thy presence, shall first behold the splendor of thy Majesty, reject me not, but receive me into thy bosom, where I may forever sing thy praises, and in that moment, when eternity shall begin to me,

Merciful Jesus, have mercy upon me.

Let us pray.

O GOD, who hast doomed all men to die, but hast concealed from all the hour of their death, grant that I may pass my days in the practice of holiness and justice, and that I may deserve to quit this world in the peace of a good conscience, and in the embraces of thy love, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Litany for the Sick, and Preparation for Death.





ORD, have mercy upon him
(her or me).

Christ, have mercy upon
him, &c.

Lord, have mercy upon him,
&c.

O God the Father, Creator of the
world, *have mercy on him, &c.*

O God the Son, Redeemer of the world,
have mercy on him, &c.

O God the Holy Ghost, Perfecter of the
Elect, *have mercy on him, &c.*

O Blessed Trinity, three Persons and
one God, *have mercy on him, &c.*

Holy Mother of God,

All ye holy Angels and Archangels,

All ye blessed company of the

Just,

All ye holy Patriarchs and Pro-
phets,

All ye holy Apostles and Evan-
gelists,

All ye holy Disciples of our Lord,

All ye holy Martyrs,

All ye holy Bishops and Confessors,

All ye holy Virgins and Widows,

Pray for him (her or me).

All ye holy Saints of God, *Make intercession for him (her or me).*

Have mercy, *O Lord! and spare him, &c.*

Have mercy, *O Lord! and hear him, &c.*

From all his sins and offences, and
the punishment due to them,

From all temptations, and the
snares of the Devil,

From all impatience, and repining
at thy just chastisements,

From dejection of spirit, and diffi-
dence in thy mercies,

From all undue fears of death, and
all immoderate desires of life.

From distraction of mind, and
neglect of his preparation for
eternity,

By thy Cross and Passion,

By thy Death and Burial,

By thy glorious Resurrection and
Ascension,

By the grace of the Holy Ghost
the Comforter,

In the hour of death and in the
day of judgment,

Deliver him (her or me), O Lord!

We sinners *beseech thee to hear us.*

That it would please thee to comfort him in his sorrows, and enable him to look beyond death, to the blessed state it leads to,

That it would please thee to remind him of all thy mercies, and by them encourage him to a sure confidence in thee,

That thou wouldst vouchsafe him the grace to order all his temporal affairs with prudence, justice, and charity; and with a free and quiet mind wholly to attend to dispose himself for heaven,

That thou wouldst sanctify this thy fatherly correction of him; that the sense of his weakness may add strength to his faith, and seriousness to his repentance,

That thou wouldst vouchsafe him the grace to confess sincerely; to repent of all his sins, and grant him perfect remission and forgiveness of them,

That thou wouldst vouchsafe

We beseech Thee to hear us!

him the grace heartily to forgive all those that have offended him; and to satisfy, to the utmost of his power, whoever hath suffered the least prejudice by him,

That being thus reconciled to thee, and to all the world, he may, with assured hope and steadfast faith, receive the sacrament of thy blessed body; and may the strength of that heavenly food cheer his fainting spirits, and carry him on with joy, in thy favor, to the end,

That a patient submission under the pains of his sickness may expiate the punishment due to his sins, diminish his love of this world, and increase his desire of the next,

That in whatever thy providence hath ordained concerning him, he may readily acquiesce, and both in life and death be always thine,

Son of God, *We beseech Thee to hear us!*

Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world, *Spare us, O Lord!*

We beseech Thee to hear us!

Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world, *Hear us, O Lord!*

Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world, *Have mercy on us!*

Lord, have mercy on us. Christ, have mercy on us. Lord, have mercy on us. *Our Father, &c.*

O Lord, hear my prayer. And let my cry come unto thee.

Let us pray.

ALMIGHTY and eternal God, in whose hands are life and death; whose infinite wisdom disposes all things advantageously for them who love thee; behold thy servant, whom thou hast cast upon a bed of sickness; comfort, we beseech thee, his afflicted spirit; increase his faith, strengthen his hope, and perfect his charity: sanctify for him all his sufferings; and if thy mercy shall restore him to his health, may he carefully correct the errors of his past life. If it please thee to call him out of this world, grant that he

may pass safely through the shades of death, transported by thy holy angels into the mansions of bliss, where no fear shall trouble him, no pain afflict him, nor grief disturb the quiet of his mind; but pure delight, unspeakable joys, and perfect security shall be forever confirmed to him, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Prayer before receiving the Viaticum, or the Holy Communion.



DEAR Jesus, I adore thee with all my heart; I give thee thanks for that infinite love which thou showedst to poor sinners in dying for them on the cross, and for thy unspeakable goodness, displayed in this heavenly banquet. Hither thou art now pleased to invite me, but how can I approach—I who have so ungratefully offended thee, and who have lived so unworthy of my profession!

I acknowledge, O God, that I am a sinner, a poor miserable sinner. Thou alone

art my hope, to thee I raise my eyes, who art rich in mercy; who art my Advocate, and most powerful Mediator. I commit my cause into thy hands. Help me now in my distress! let thy precious blood, the infinite treasure of thy merits, supply all my deficiencies, while I partake of this sacred food. Thou knowest my weakness, thou knowest my unworthiness; thou seest how unfit I am, through the multitude and enormity of my sins, to appear before thy judgment-seat: I tremble at that dreadful hour when my manifold transgressions shall be laid before me. What shall I do then, O Keeper of Men! What must become of me, if my iniquities are to decide my eternal destiny? O Jesus, let me not go alone into that place of terror: come thou into my soul, accompany it to the tribunal of God; there let all thy mercies plead for me! though I have nothing to trust to in myself, yet upon thy infinite goodness I have every reason to rely. Let us, then, my soul, confidently recur to the mercies of our Lord; there let us shelter ourselves

in the virtue of his blessed wounds ; there, though our sins cry aloud for justice, his precious blood still cries louder for mercy. It is on this mercy I depend ; in this I hope ; and in this hope I desire to die : come, dear Jesus, now into my soul, and possess it forever.

Thou art my Lord and my God ; behold I am thy servant : give me understanding and strengthen me, that I may ever conform to thy holy will.

Thou art the Lamb of God, the spotless Lamb who takest away the sins of the world. Take from me all that is sinful, and give me that which is pleasing in thy sight.

Thou art my love and my joy, my God, and my all ; thou art my portion and inheritance ; it is thou who wilt restore my inheritance to me.

Let the powerful force of thy love affect all my faculties ; let it entirely change my heart, that for love of thee I may die to the world, who for love of me wast pleased to die on the cross.

Into thy hands I commit and surren-

der my spirit and remainder of life, and my whole being, whilst I am in possession of it, and have the power of making the offer and sacrifice.



An Act of Thanksgiving, after having received the Holy Communion, or Viaticum.



GLORY and thanksgiving be to thee, O Lord, who in thy sweetness hast been pleased to visit and refresh my poor soul. Now let thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word.

Now thou art come to me, I will not let thee go; now I willingly bid farewell to the world; and with joy I go to thee, my God.

Nothing more, O dear Jesus, nothing more shall separate me from thee. Now

I am united to thee, in thee I will live, in thee I will die, and in thee I hope to abide forever.

Now life seems uneasy to me ; I desire to be dissolved, and be with Christ ; for Christ is my life, and to die will be my gain.

Now I will fear no evils, though I walk in the shadow of death, because thou art with me, O Lord : as the hart pants after the fountains of water, so does my soul after thee : my soul thirsts after the Fountain of Living Water : O when shall I come, and appear before the face of my God !

Give me thy blessing, O Jesus, and establish my soul in everlasting peace ; such peace, as only thou canst give ; such peace, as it may not be in the power of my enemy to destroy.

O that I were happily united to thee forever ; that I were wholly swallowed up and buried in thee ! O that my soul were at rest in thy happiness, and in the enjoyment of thee, my God, forever !

What have I more to do with the world? And in heaven what have I to desire but thee, my God?

Into thy hands I commend my spirit; receive me, sweet Jesus! In thee may I rest, and in thy happiness rejoice without end. Amen.

A Prayer before Extreme Unction.

LORD Jesus Christ, who, in thy great mercy, hast provided powerful resources for all our necessities; grant me grace to have recourse to them with such dispositions, that my soul may partake of all those great advantages and salutary effects, which thou hast appointed in their institution. Thou hast instituted the sacrament of Extreme Unction for the benefit of the sick, who in their extremity stand more particularly in need of grace and consolation. I now desire to receive this heavenly medicine, for the ends for which it has been instituted. Grant, I beseech thee, that this holy Unction may produce in me all its happy fruits;

by healing my soul, by fortifying me against all temptations, by supporting me in the hour of anguish and distress, and by preparing me for a happy passage, or for whatever may be thy holy will. If thou foreseest that my health will be conducive to thy greater glory, and expedient for my eternal salvation, let this be the means to restore it. I absolutely submit to thy will: I wish not so much to live as to serve thee. Dispose of me as thou knowest best; all I desire is the accomplishment of thy will; give me health or sickness, life or death; give me whatever thou pleasest; not my will but thine be done; it is a greater happiness to fulfil thy will than to enjoy ten thousand lives. How happy should I be, if the destruction of my body could repair the injuries I have offered to thy divine Majesty! My eyes, alas! have seen vanities; my ears have been open to detractions, to profane and unprofitable discourses; my tongue has many ways offended both in speaking and tasting, my hands have

contributed to many follies; my feet have often gone astray in the paths of vanity and sin. By this holy anointing, and by the prayers of thy Church, pardon me, O Jesus, all the sins which I have committed by my senses. Let those avenues, through which sin has made its ways into my soul, be now shut to the world. Let my eyes be opened to thee alone. Let my ears be attentive to thy commandments. Let my tongue be solely employed in soliciting for mercy. Let my prayers ascend like incense in thy sight. Let my hands be lifted up to heaven for pardon. Let my feet walk in thy ways, and let my heart be the living temple of the Holy Ghost. Into thy hands, O dear Jesus, I commend my spirit. In thee I will live, in thee I will die, in thee I will abide, and in thee I hope to possess eternal rest forever and ever. Amen.

A Prayer after Extreme Unction.

O MY God, thou hast created, redeemed, and sanctified me; thou

hast preserved me in many dangers, both of soul and body. Thou hast nourished me with the adorable sacrament of thy body and blood, and granted me to receive the rites of thy Church, preferably to so many others, who were carried off by a sudden death, without having been favored with those succors which thou hast bestowed upon me, a most ungrateful sinner. For these, and all other blessings, I offer thee innumerable thanks; to thee I resign my heart; receive it for a holocaust. I do not desire to be freed from my pains; thou knowest what is best for me; take from me all murmuring; give me patience to suffer whatever thou pleasest; if it be thy divine pleasure to inflict on my weak body greater punishments than I now suffer, my heart is ready, O Lord, my heart is ready to accept them, and to suffer in whatever manner and measure shall be most conformable to thy will. This one grace I most earnestly beg of thee, my God, that I may die the death of thy elect,

and be admitted, after the sufferings and tribulations of this transitory life, into the kingdom of thy glory, there to see and enjoy thee, in the company of the blessed, for all eternity. Amen.



Litany for a Soul Departing.





LORD, have mercy on us.
 Christ, have mercy on us.
 Lord, have mercy on us.
 Holy Mary,
 All ye holy Angels and
 Archangels,
 Holy Abel,
 All ye choirs of the just,
 Holy Abraham,
 St. John the Baptist,
 St. Joseph,
 All ye patriarchs and prophets,
 St. Peter,
 St. Paul,
 St. Andrew,
 St. John,
 All ye holy apostles and evan-
 gelists,
 All ye holy disciples of the Lord,
 All ye holy innocents,
 St. Stephen,
 St. Laurence,
 All ye holy martyrs,
 St. Sylvester,
 St. Gregory,
 St. Augustin,

Pray for him (her).

All ye holy Bishops and Confes-
sors,

St. Benedict,

St. Francis,

All ye holy monks and hermits,

St. Mary Magdalen,

St. Lucy,

All ye holy virgins and widows,

All ye saints of God, *make intercession
for him (her).*

Be merciful, *Spare him (her), O Lord.*

Be merciful,

From thy anger,

From the danger of death,

From an unhappy death,

From the pains of hell,

From all evil,

From the power of the devil,

By thy nativity,

By thy cross and passion,

By thy death and burial,

By thy glorious resurrection,

By thy admirable ascension,

By the grace of the Holy Ghost,

the Comforter,

In the day of judgment,

Pray for him (her).

Deliver him (her), O Lord.

We sinners, *Beseech thee to hear us.*
 That thou spare him *(her)*, *We beseech*
thee to hear us.

Lord, have mercy on us !

Christ, have mercy on us !

Lord, have mercy on us !

Let us pray.

DEPART, Christian soul, out of this world, in the name of God the Father Almighty, who created thee : in the name of Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, who suffered for thee : in the name of the Holy Ghost, who sanctified thee : in the name of the angels, archangels, thrones, and dominations, cherubim and seraphim : in the name of the patriarchs and prophets, of the holy apostles and evangelists, of the holy martyrs and confessors, of the holy monks and hermits, of the holy virgins, and of all the saints of God, let thy place be this day in peace, and thy abode in holy Sion, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

God of mercy, God of goodness; O God, who according to the multitude of thy mercies forgivest the sins of such as repent, and graciously remittest the guilt of their past offences, mercifully regard this thy servant N., and grant him (*her*) a full discharge from all his (*her*) sins, who most earnestly begs it of thee. Remove, O merciful Father, whatever is corrupt in him (*her*) through human frailty, or by the snares of the enemy; make him (*her*) a true member of the Church, and let him (*her*) partake of the fruit of thy redemption. Have compassion, Lord, on his (*her*) tears, and admit him (*her*) to the reconciliation with thee, who has no hope but in thee, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

I recommend thee, dear brother (*sister*), to Almighty God, and leave thee to his mercy, whose creature thou art; that having paid the common debt, by surrendering thy soul, thou mayest return to thy Maker, who formed thee out of the earth. Let

therefore the splendid company of angels meet thy soul at its departure; let the court of the apostles receive thee; let the triumphant army of glorious martyrs conduct thee; let the crowds of joyful confessors encompass thee; let the choir of blessed virgins go before thee; and let a happy rest be thy portion in the company of the patriarchs; let Christ Jesus appear to thee with a mild and cheerful countenance, and give thee place among those who are to be in his presence forever. Mayest thou be a stranger to all that which is punished with darkness, chastised with flames, and condemned to torments. Let the wicked enemy, with all his evil spirits, depart from thee: may he tremble at thy approach in the company of angels, and retire into the horrid confusion of eternal night. May thy God arise, and thy enemies be put to flight. May all who hate him, fly before his face. Let them vanish like smoke, and as wax before the fire, so let sinners perish in the sight of God:

but for the just, let them rejoice and be happy in his presence. May all the ministers of hell be filled with confusion and shame; and let no evil spirit dare to stop thee in thy way. Christ Jesus be thy deliverer, who was crucified for thee. Christ Jesus deliver thee from death, who vouchsafed to die for thee. Christ Jesus, Son of the living God, place thee in his garden of paradise, and may he, the true Shepherd, own thee for one of his flock. May he absolve thee from all thy sins, and place thee at his right hand in the inheritance of his elect. We pray it may be thy happy lot to behold thy Redeemer face to face, to be ever in his presence, and in the vision of that truth which is the joy of the blessed: And thus, placed among those happy spirits, mayest thou be ever filled with heavenly sweetness. Amen.

Receive thy servant, O Lord, into the place of salvation, which he (*she*) hopes from thy mercy.

R. Amen.

Deliver, O Lord, the soul of thy servant from all dangers of hell, from all pain and tribulation.

R. Amen.

Deliver, O Lord, the soul of thy servant, as thou deliveredst Enoch and Elias from the common death of the world.

R. Amen.

Deliver, O Lord, the soul of thy servant, as thou deliveredst Noah from the flood.

R. Amen.

Deliver, O Lord, the soul of thy servant, as thou deliveredst Abraham from the midst of the Chaldeans.

R. Amen.

Deliver, O Lord, the soul of thy servant, as thou deliveredst Job from all his afflictions.

R. Amen.

Deliver, O Lord, the soul of thy servant, as thou deliveredst Isaac from being sacrificed by his father.

R. Amen.

Deliver, O Lord, the soul of thy

servant, as thou deliveredst Lot from Sodom, and the flames of fire.

R. Amen.

Deliver, O Lord, the soul of thy servant, as thou deliveredst Moses from the hands of Pharaoh, king of Egypt.

R. Amen.

Deliver, O Lord, the soul of thy servant, as thou deliveredst Daniel from the lion's den.

R. Amen.

Deliver, O Lord, the soul of thy servant, as thou deliveredst the three children from the fiery furnace, and from the hands of an unmerciful king.

R. Amen.

Deliver, O Lord, the soul of thy servant, as thou deliveredst Susanna from her false accusers.

R. Amen.

Deliver, O Lord, the soul of thy servant, as thou deliveredst David from the hands of Saul and Goliath.

R. Amen.

Deliver, O Lord, the soul of thy ser-

vant, as thou deliveredst Peter and Paul out of prison.

R. Amen.

And as thou deliveredst that blessed virgin and martyr, St. Thecla, from most cruel torments, so vouchsafe to deliver the soul of this thy servant, and bring it to the participation of thy heavenly joys.

R. Amen.

Let us pray.

WE commend to thee, O Lord, the soul of this thy servant, and beseech thee, Jesus Christ, Redeemer of the world, that as in mercy to him (*her*) thou becamest man, so now thou wouldst vouchsafe to admit him (*her*) into the number of the blessed. Remember, O Lord, he (*she*) is thy creature, not made by strange gods, but by thee, the only true and living God, for there is no other God but thee, none that can work thy wonders.—Let his (*her*) soul find comfort in thy sight, and re-

member not his (*her*) former sins, nor any of those excesses which he (*she*) has fallen into, through the violence of passion and corruption. For although he (*she*) has sinned, he (*she*) hath retained a true faith in thee, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost; he (*she*) has had zeal for thy honor, and faithfully adored thee his (*her*) God, and Creator of all things.

Remember not, O Lord, we beseech thee, the sins and ignorances of his (*her*) youth; but, according to thy great mercy, be mindful of him (*her*) in thy eternal glory. Let the heavens be open to him (*her*) and the angels rejoice with him (*her*). Receive, O Lord, thy servant into thy kingdom. Let the archangel St. Michael, the chief of the heavenly host, conduct him (*her*). Let the holy angels of God meet him (*her*), and bring him (*her*) into the city of the heavenly Jerusalem. May blessed Peter, the Apostle, to whom were given the keys of the kingdom of heaven, receive him (*her*). May holy Paul, the Apostle, who was a vessel of election, help him

(*her*). May St. John, the beloved disciple, to whom God revealed the secrets of heaven, intercede for him (*her*). May all the holy apostles, to whom was given the power of binding and loosing, pray for him (*her*). May all the blessed and chosen servants of God, who in this world have suffered torments for the name of Christ, pray for him (*her*). That, being delivered from this body of corruption, he (*she*) may be admitted into the kingdom of heaven, through the assistance and merits of our Lord Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with the Father and the Holy Ghost, world without end. Amen.

If the dying person be in his senses, the following Acts may be made.

An Act of Thanksgiving.

O MY God! you have created, redeemed, and sanctified me. You have preserved me in many dangers, both of soul and body. You have

fed me with thy most blessed body and blood. You have shown immense patience in bearing with my repeated crimes, and often called me to repentance. For these and all other blessings bestowed upon me a most ungrateful sinner, I offer you innumerable thanks.

Act of Resignation.

O MY God, I cheerfully receive the certain summons of my death. It is a greater happiness to fulfil your will, than to enjoy ten thousand lives. O happy news of my departure ! I shall soon hear the choirs of angels sing your immortal praises. Let slow death hasten on, that dying I may no more offend you, but live with you, and love you eternally.

Act of Contrition.

I AM truly and heartily sorry for all my sins, not through the fear of hell, or hope of reward, but for the love of thee, my God and only God ; and

were I beginning, as I am ending my life, I would not offend thee for a thousand worlds. O my God, do not despise a contrite and humble heart.

If the sick party still continue in distress of agony, it would be proper for the assistants to read again the foregoing Litany and Prayers as often as may be necessary.

The soul being now departed, the following Responsory is said.



R. Come to his (*her*) assistance, all ye saints of God; meet him (*her*), all ye angels of the Lord; *Receiving his (*her*) soul; *Presenting it in the sight of the Most High.

V. May Christ who called thee receive thee, and the angels conduct thee into the bosom of Abraham.

R. Receiving his (*her*) soul, and presenting it in the sight of the Most High.

V. Eternal rest grant him (*her*), O Lord.

R. And let perpetual light shine upon him (*her*).

Presenting it in the sight of the Most High.

V. Lord, have mercy on us.

R. Christ, have mercy on us.

V. Lord, have mercy on us.

Our Father, &c.

V. And lead us not into temptation.

R. But deliver us from evil.

V. Eternal rest grant him (*her*), O Lord.

R. And let perpetual light shine upon him (*her*).

V. From the gates of hell.

R. Deliver his (*her*) soul, O Lord.

V. O Lord, hear my prayer.

R. And let my supplication come to thee.

Let us pray.

TO thee, O Lord, we commend the soul of thy servant N., that being dead to this world, he (*she*) may live to thee. And whatever sins he (*she*) has committed through human frailty, we beseech thee in thy goodness mercifully to pardon, through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

Then, for a conclusion, may be added the following Prayer for the assistants.

GRANT, O Lord, that while we here lament the departure of thy servant, we may ever remember, that we are most certainly to follow him (*her*). Give us grace to prepare for that last hour, by a good life, that we may not be surprised by a sudden death, but be ever watching when thou shalt call, that so with the spouse we may enter into eternal glory, through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

The Litany for the Dead.





ORD, have mercy on us.

Christ, have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy on us.

Jesus, receive our prayers.

Lord Jesus, grant our petitions.

O God the Father, Creator
of the world, have mercy on the
souls of the faithful departed.

O God the Son, Redeemer of man-
kind, deliver the souls of the faithful
departed.

O God the Holy Ghost, perfecter of
the elect, accomplish the bliss of the
faithful departed.

Blessed Virgin Mary, who, by the
special privilege of grace, wast triumph-
antly assumed into the kingdom of thy
Son, pray for the souls of the faithful
departed.

Blessed angels, who, ordering
aright the first act of your will,
were fixed forthwith in unchange-
able happiness,

Blessed patriarchs, who were fill-
ed with joy when the Desired of Na-
tions put an end to your captivity,

*Pray for the souls of the
faithful departed.*

Blessed prophets, who, after patiently awaiting the arrival of the Messiah, were at length consoled by a visit from him in person,

Blessed saints, who, at the glorious resurrection of our Saviour, were translated from Limbo to the visible presence of God,

Blessed apostles, who, at the last day, shall sit to judge the twelve tribes of Israel,

Blessed disciples of our Lord, who followed his steps in the narrow paths of perfection,

Blessed martyrs, who passed through the sea of your own blood, entering immediately into the land of promise,

Blessed confessors, who despised the vanity of the earth, and placed your affections on the joys of heaven,

Blessed virgins, who, with your lighted lamps, awaited the coming of the heavenly spouse,

O holy saints, who, being freed

Pray for the souls of the faithful departed.

from all irregular attachment to creatures, were perfectly fitted for an immediate union with your Creator, *Pray for the souls of the faithful departed.*

Be merciful, O Lord, and pardon their sins.

Be merciful, O Lord, and hear their prayers.

From the shades of death, where the light of thy countenance shineth not,

From the evils, to which immortification in this world must expose them in the other,

From thy displeasure, provoked by negligence and ingratitude,

From the pains of purgatory, so justly inflicted upon unexpiated sins,

From the torments incomparably greater than the bitterest anguish of this life,

By the multitude of thy mercies, ever compassionate to human frailties,

By the virtue of thy cross, where-

Deliver them, O Lord!

on thou reconciledst the world to
thy Father,

By thy victorious descent into
hell, to break the chains of death,

By thy glorious resurrection
from the tomb, to open the king-
dom of heaven,

By thy triumphant ascension
into heaven, to lead captivity cap-
tive,

By thy dread coming to judge
the world,

Deliver them, O Lord!

We sinners beseech thee to hear us.

That it please thee to hasten the
day when thy faithful shall be de-
livered from the mansions of sor-
row,

That it please thee to shorten
the time of their expiation, and
to admit them speedily into thy
heavenly sanctuary,

That it please thee, through the
prayers and good works performed
in thy Church, to receive them into
thy eternal tabernacles,

We beseech Thee to hear us!

That it please thee to accept, in

atonement for their sins, the infinite value of thy unbloody sacrifice,

That the blessed view of Jesus may comfort them, and his unfading glory shine upon them,

That the whole triumphant Church may soon celebrate their deliverance; and the choirs of angels sing new hymns of joy on their never-ending happiness,

That we ourselves may share in their triumph, and unite with all the citizens of heaven in eternal alleluias,

Son of God,

Lamb of God, who shalt come with glory to judge the living and the dead, give rest to the souls of the faithful departed!

Lamb of God, at whose presence the heavens and the earth shall be moved, give rest to the souls of the faithful departed!

Lamb of God, in whose book of life the names of thy elect are inscribed,

We beseech Thee to hear us!

give rest to the souls of the faithful departed!

The Antiphon.

DELIVER us, O Lord, from eternal death, in that tremendous day when the heavens shall be moved and the earth: whilst thou shalt come to judge the world by fire. We tremble and are sore afraid at the discussion which will take place, and at thy future wrath, when the heavens shall be moved, and the earth; whilst thou shalt come to judge the world by fire.

That day is a day of wrath, of calamity, and of misery: a great and a most bitter day; whilst thou shalt come to judge the world by fire.

Give them, O Lord, eternal rest: and let perpetual light shine upon them. Amen.

Let us pray.

O GOD, the Creator and Redeemer of all the faithful, grant to the souls of thy servants departed the

remission of all their sins, that, by means of pious supplications, they may obtain the pardon which they have ever earnestly desired; who livest and reignest with the Father in the unity of the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. Amen.

*A Prayer upon the Day of a Person's
Decease or Burial.*

O GOD, to whom it peculiarly belongeth to have mercy always, and to spare, we humbly beseech thee in behalf of the soul of thy servant N., which thou hast this day called out of the world, that thou wouldst not deliver it into the hands of the enemy, nor be unmindful of it unto the end: but command it to be received by thy holy angels, and conducted to Paradise, its true country; that as in thee it had faith and hope, it may not suffer the pains of hell, but be put in possession of never-ending felicity, through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Another.

O LORD, we commend unto thy infinite clemency the souls of thy servants lately deceased; pardon them, we beseech thee, in the multitude of thy mercies, the sins which they have committed through human frailty, and grant them eternal life in thy kingdom of bliss. Amen.



The Thirty Days' Prayer to our Blessed Redeemer.

