

Hurry in the names of
your deceased ones that
they may share in the
Novena.

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Purgatory's No Fable.

It's a place where just souls leaving this world with the guilt of venial sin or still charged with a debt of temporal punishment due to forgiven mortal sin, pay their debt to the last farthing. It's a spiritual laundry where souls are cleansed and made perfectly ready for the Vision of their God.

Common sense tells us that many who die in the state of grace are not ready to enter at once into the Beatific Vision of God. There are traces of venial sins and the debt of temporal punishment due to forgiven mortal sins still spoiling the perfection of their souls.

God cannot send them to Heaven, for nothing defiled may enter there. He cannot, in His justice even, send them to Hell. Hence there must be a Middle State of cleansing which we call Purgatory.

Even back in Old Testament times, the Jews believed in this middle ground between Heaven and Hell. One day after battle Judas Maccabeus "came with his company to take away the bodies of them that were slain...And they found under the coats of the slain some of the donations of the idols of Jamnia, which the law forbiddeth to the Jews...And so betaking themselves to prayers, they besought the Lord that the sin which had been committed might be forgotten...And making a gathering, Judas sent twelve thousand drachmas of silver to Jerusalem for sacrifice to be offered for the sins of the dead, thinking well and religiously concerning the resurrection... and because he considered that they who had fallen asleep in godliness had great grace laid up for them. It is therefore a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead that they may be loosed from their sins."

The Jews believed that these friends who had died in godliness were not condemned. Nor were they resting yet in the bosom of their Father Abraham, for almost at the moment of death they had broken a law. To relieve them sacrifice was offered to God.

PRAYERS: (deceased) aunt of Tom Meher (St. Eds.); Stanley Schurilla; Thos. Kenney. Ill, Jim McNulty (Cav.); mother of Joseph English ('37); friend of Gerald Hogan (Mor.) aunt of Bill Brinker (Cav.); Dick Swisher; Geo. Stoefell. 4 special intentions.

Christ's Words. More than a century later when the Word was made Flesh, far from correcting this practice of the Jews, Our Lord Himself taught it. "Whoever shall speak against the Holy Ghost, it shall be forgiven him, neither in this world, nor in the world to come." Here is a clear intimation of some remission of sin after death, a remission impossible in Heaven (where sin cannot enter) and in Hell (whence sin cannot escape). So, even the lips of God speak of this Middle State.

St. Paul repeated his Master. If a just man, building on Christ, shall cheapen his work with stubble and wood and hay, "the day of the Lord shall declare it, because it shall be revealed in fire; and the fire shall try every man's work, of what sort it is....If any man's work burn, he shall suffer loss; but he himself shall be saved, yet so as by fire." It is Purgatory again. A man dies just, but his work is imperfect. He himself shall be saved, but only by being chastened in a chalice of fire.

St. John the virgin saw the truth clear-cut: "Nothing defiled shall enter Heaven!"

"Wash Me Yet More."

To enter Heaven we must regain the spotlessness of our baptismal innocence. Pray then for the Poor Souls. Give them this month the satisfactory portion of your Masses and Holy Communions. Attend public prayers for them during the Novena at 5 o'clock in the church.

You know, devotion to Our Eucharistic Lord and to Our Lady is relatively easy. It just naturally warms our hearts. But the Poor Souls don't always "carry." We neglect them.

No doubt the reason is that we've never thought of Purgatory. Often, just this thought is sufficient: One day I will die and then become a Poor Soul myself. How will I feel when I face those whom I have so grossly neglected. After all, there's something personal about Purgatory.