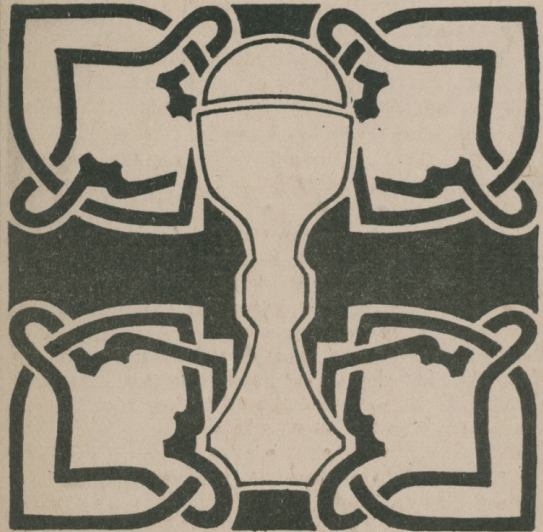


OUR HOLY DEAD



HOLY CROSS PRESS
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"How long, O Lord, Holy and True, how long?"

Kneel before His Sacramental Majesty a few moments in adoring silence.

Lift up your heart and say: "Blessed, praised and adored be our Lord Jesus Christ on His throne of glory in heaven, and in the Most Holy Sacrament of the altar."

Say: "Jesus, I love Thee. O make me love Thee more and more."

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Remember that on us depends, in great measure, the "coming of the Kingdom of God with power;" our prayers can hasten or can hinder it. The departed souls long for the Consummation more than we possibly can, because they have seen Jesus face to face; yet Catholic theology teaches that they cannot pray for themselves.

Try to realize what their longing must be: it is in your power to alleviate it.

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Pray God to accomplish the number of His Elect, and to hasten His Kingdom. Say with this intention an "Our Father."

I. Think of the intermediate state as the prison from whence none shall come out till the uttermost farthing has been paid; or as the "fire" which shall purify the elect with a seven-

fold (*i.e.* perfect) purification. Say for the souls who are there detained Ps. 130 and 142.

Pray by name for your own departed friends; for your relatives; and for those who have done you good. Say on their behalf, and in their stead, Ps. 90.

Pray for departed Priests, that God would remember them for good, and spare them according to the greatness of His mercy. "Our Father."

Pray for those of whose salvation we stand in doubt. "Holy God, Holy and True, Holy and Immortal, have mercy upon them; for as Thy Majesty is, so is Thy mercy."

II. Adore our Lord here present and ask for all Holy Souls that they may be purged more and more;
enlightened, as they can bear it, to see themselves in the light of God;
refreshed, with the dew of hope;
perfected, according to the will of God.

Say an "Our Father" with this intention.

Pray for the purest soul, the soul that is most nearly ripe for the Vision of God; saying on its behalf Ps. 116.

Pray for the least perfect soul, the soul that needs most purifying; saying on its behalf Ps. 88.

Pray for those who have none to pray for them, and whose names are no longer remembered upon earth, saying,

"O Lord God Almighty the soul in anguish, the troubled spirit crieth unto Thee.

"Hear Thou, O Lord, and have mercy, for Thou art merciful: and have pity upon them, for they have sinned before Thee."

"Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen."

III. Adore our Lord here present and pray for a better understanding of the Catholic doctrine concerning the faithful departed, and for an increase of Masses for the dead.

IV. Remember that the Church suffers in all those of her children who are not yet perfected; and that prayer for the departed is therefore a duty which we owe to her as well as a charity which we are bound to shew to them.

Join yourself with her as she presents the desires of the Holy Souls; Ps. 13, "How long wilt Thou forget me, O Lord?"

V. Plead before the Eternal Father the prayer of Jesus in His Passion, "Father, I will that they whom Thou hast given Me be with Me where I am; that they may behold My glory."

VI. Join with the faithful dead in their adoring submission to the will of God. "My song shall be alway of mercy and judgment, unto Thee, O Lord, will I sing. Righteous art Thou, O Lord, and true is Thy judgment. O let my

soul live and it shall praise Thee: and Thy judgments shall help me."

Meditate on the exceeding purity required of those who are to stand in the presence of God.

"Who among us shall dwell with the devouring Fire? Who among us shall dwell with Everlasting Burnings? He that walketh righteously, and speaketh uprightly: he that despiseth the gain of deceit, and stoppeth his ears from hearing of blood, and shutteth his eyes from seeing of evil."

VII. Adore our Lord here present and say: "O ye spirits and souls of the righteous, bless ye the Lord, praise Him and magnify Him for ever."

Offer in the name of the Holy Souls (or of any one particular soul whom you wish especially to benefit), this act of praise:

"Blessed be God that liveth for ever, and blessed be His Kingdom.

"For He doth scourge, and hath mercy; He leadeth down to hell, and bringeth up again; neither is there any that can avoid His hand.

"He is our Lord, and He is our Father for ever: and He will scourge us for our iniquities, and will have mercy again."

VIII. Repeat these words again and again as acts of *faith, joy, love, and adoration* to the Most Holy, thanking Him for His Holiness, Justice, Mercy, Patience, Kindness, Love, and pres-

ent them before God in the name of the Holy Souls, asking Him to accept these acts as if from them.

Thus, with ease to yourself, and with almost endless variety of devotion, you may benefit the faithful departed, and give glory to God.

IX. Lastly, do not forget to ask the grace of a holy death for all those who are making their confessions to-day. Say "O Saving Victim," with this intention.

Hear our Lord saying of your prayers for the Holy Souls, "I was in prison, and thou didst visit Me. Inasmuch as thou hast done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, thou hast done it unto Me."

Say from time to time during the day, "O ye spirits and souls of the righteous, etc.; "May the Souls of the faithful," "Grant them, O Lord, eternal rest," etc.

Sum up the prayers of this Holy Hour as follows:

By the Rest of Jesus in Paradise, let us pray—

I. For our departed relatives,
friends,
Benefactors,

For the departed who are unremembered
by name on earth.

For those who have died without the last
Sacraments.

For those of whose salvation we stand in
doubt.

Speak to Jesus, present in the Sacrament of his love, saying:

"Lord, all-pitying Jesu blest,
Grant them Thine eternal rest."

II. Let us ask for the Holy Souls that they
may be
Purged,
Enlightened,
Refreshed,
Perfected.

Say, "Lord, all-pitying Jesu," etc.

Close the Holy Hour with an act of Spiritual Communion, saying:

"Come to my heart, Lord Jesus,
There is room in my heart for Thee."