

Dear readers, do you wish for favors from God? Then be very compassionate to the souls in Purgatory. That charity which you show to them God will show much more to you. Be compassionate to them not in heart only but by works, and by every sort of supplication; above all let us have recourse to the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. This is the most efficacious supplication we can offer heaven for the poor souls, for it is the prayer of prayers.

It is impossible for us, dear readers, to commend sufficiently to you the precious treasure in the Sacrifice of the Mass, as most helpful to the souls in Purgatory. For in that act it is Jesus Christ alone Who washes us from our sins with His blood. We know not if our prayers will prove acceptable before God, but in the Mass, we know that it is our Divine Lord Who pleads again to His Eternal Father; therefore what prayer can be more powerful towards obtaining the repose of the souls of the faithful departed? How mindful was the great St. Monica of this truth! One day as she lay sick, she came to herself after her mind had been long wandering and cried: "Where am I" Then she saw Augustine standing by, and said: "Lay this body anywhere, be not concerned about; only this I beg of you that wheresoever you be you make remembrance of me at the Lord's altar." It almost makes one's heart melt to read the tokens of St. Augustine's love for his saintly mother Monica. In various passages of his works he warmly commends to the pity of the faithful the souls of his parents. Here are his words: "Let them remember with pious affection those who were my parents in this transitory life, that so my mother's last request to me on her death-bed may be more abundantly performed by the prayer of many than by mine alone."

In the exhortations of St. Bonaventure we find him inculcating the offering of the Sacrifice of the altar in behalf of the souls in Purgatory. He speaks of the Mass as being "the precious hidden gift which extinguishes the pains of Purgatory, lightens and shortens them." Let us learn then from the saints the duty of perseverance in giving suffrages to the souls of the departed, especially with the frequent celebration of the holy sacrifice, and they will certainly be relieved from all pain and God will wipe all tears from their eyes.