

priest who was praying for his friend. Apparently, God had made known to him that his friend was in purgatory. So, he thought he could do nothing more efficacious than to offer Mass for his release. At the consecration, he took the sacred Host between his fingers and said: "Holy and Eternal Father, let us exchange. You hold the soul of my friend who is in purgatory; I hold the body of your Son who is in my hands, deliver my friend and I will deliver Thee Thy Son with all the merits of His passion and death." In fact, at the elevation, the priest saw the soul of his friend, radiant with glory, ascending into heaven.

The Venerable Curé then refuted the objection commonly pleaded to excuse neglect in attending daily Mass. "You fear," says he, "Mass will retard your business? On the contrary, be convinced that through its efficacy all will run more smoothly and your business will be more successful. To exemplify this I will give you an instance that came under my own observation. I knew two men, one of whom, though the father of a large family, finding time to hear Mass every morning lived in comparative ease; whereas the other toiled day and night not sparing time for Mass, yet never succeeding in even gaining a moderate living for himself and wife. Discouraged, he asked the former, who was his neighbor, how he managed to succeed so well. For answer he induced him to accompany him to Mass on three consecutive days saying, that is my secret, I do not know of any other means of living in comfort than to hear Mass daily, it is the only one I have employed to acquire the ease which you envy; moreover, do you not believe what Jesus Christ says in the Gospel, seek he first the Kingdom of God and all the rest shall be given to you in abundance? These words deeply impressed his listener. "I will follow your example," he replied, and I hope God will bless me!" In effect he grew richer not through working more but by hearing Mass every day. Does this surprise you, my brethren, concluded the Curé of Ars. It does not surprise me, besides it is what you will generally see in homes where piety reigns. Those who assist frequently at Mass manage their affairs much better than those whom lack of piety persuade they have not time to do so. If we placed all our confidence in God alone, how much happier we