

❖ THE HOLY SOULS ❖



“Have pity on me, have pity on me, at least you my friends, because the hand of the Lord hath touched me.”

Job XIX-21

The Catholic Church is often accused of being too severe with her children—of being even cruel towards them in seeking to control their action in things which seem to be outside the sphere of religion, and depriving life of much of its charm. True, our Holy Mother will not lower the standards she has received from Christ to suit our whims, but for all that, we know that she looks after our dearest interests from the cradle to the grave, and as her setting apart the month of November as a time of special prayer for the souls in Purgatory shows, her tender sollicitude follows us beyond the grave itself. She who is accused of standing between us and those we love, affords us the means of giving them most effectual and unselfish assistance, when, after their departure from this life, they meet the requirements of the holiness and majesty of God by a sojourn in the purifying flames of Purgatory. If the doctrine of the communion of Saints were known to those who dislike the Church because of her strictness which they mistake for hardheartedness, they would soon cease to accuse her. They should find little difficulty in exchanging a religion which asks them to be contented with inscribing: “I believe in the resurrection of the body,” or something to that effect on the tombstones of their relatives and friends; for the religion which allows them to follow the dictates of their hearts, by enabling them to give real assistance to relatives and friends as often as they choose to do so.

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