

No doubt there are degrees of punishment; but the least degree of purgatorial pain is keener and intenser than all the pains of this life put together.

You ought to get as many Masses as you can said for your deceased friends and benefactors. They not only expect this service from you, but they will at once repay you by becoming your most grateful friends and intercessors with God.

You may now perhaps ask: What are you to do when you desire to have a Mass applied according to your intention?

You must ask a priest to offer the Mass for you. Of course he is not obliged, and indeed he may not be able to do so. But you need have no delicacy in asking him, because this relation between the priest and the people is regulated by the Canon law, which supposes that a *honorarium*, *tax*, *stipend* or *alms*, as it is variously called, should be given on the occasion.

The Holy Scriptures lay down the principle that they who serve the altar shall live by the altar, and that they who minister to the people spiritual blessings, shall receive, as St. Augustine puts it, "their support from the people and their reward from the Lord." Whenever, therefore, you ask that the Sacrifice be offered up, especially and exclusively for your own intention, it is right that you should practically recognize this principle. If the priest accepts the *honorarium*, it is a pledge to you that the Mass will be offered exclusively for your intention; for he is then bound by justice and under pain of sin to offer it.

The stipend or *honorarium* must not be regarded as the price or equivalent of a Mass. Such a thought would be blasphemous, the Holy Sacrifice being beyond all price and of infinite value. It may be regarded, however, partly as the Canonical daily maintenance of the priest and as a slight recognition of the time and labor actually spent for you, and of the long years of self-denial and study by which the priest prepared himself for services of which the people reap the benefit.

PUBLICATIONS.

The Ave Maria of October 15 last contained a beautiful sketch of St. Theresa, by Ellis Schreiber.

That peerless publication, the *Messenger of the Sacred Heart*, besides a host of good things, has a beautiful article in the current number on "Mount Carmel in Palestine."

The Catholic Almanac of Ontario is now published from 510 Queen St. West, Toronto. The editor is E. O'Sullivan.

The leading article in Appleton's *Popular Science Monthly* for November is a discussion of the origin of the peoples which originally settled middle America. Prof. E. S. Morse, the author, is well known as a scientist and traveler, and his views on such a subject are of great value and interest.

The Christian Housewife, from the German of Rev. F. X. Wetzel, has just been put on sale by B. Herder, of (17 South Broadway), St. Louis, Mo. Considering the fact that this is a neatly printed book, strongly bound in cloth, the price, forty cents, is very low. Every mother should read this book—or let someone read it to her. It is full of truth and contains many consoling sayings.

A treasury of wise sentences, pregnant with consolation for many religious souls is *Striving After Perfection*, by Rev. Joseph Bayma, S. J. We are sure that when once known a copy of this excellent work will be seen on the kneeling-bench of every English-speaking religious. It is a book suitable for daily wear and tear. Pages, 264. Price, 81. Write to Messrs. Benziger Bros., 36 Barclay street, New York City.

A Victim to the Seal of Confession, by Rev. Joseph Spillmann, S. J., is a true story, founded on fact, which vividly pictures the extent to which a priest is bound to guard the seal of confession, even when his own life is at stake. It is a book that interests and edifies. It is sold at one dollar, and can be had by mail from the publisher B. Herder, 17 South Broadway, St. Louis, Mo.

The Weekly Bouquet, of Boston, says: "Miss Anna C. Minogue is now at work on a series of sketches of Catholic Southern writers, to be published in *The Weekly Bouquet* during the coming fall and winter. Mrs. Theresa B. O'Hare will be the subject of her first sketch, to appear in October. Miss Minogue, although still very young, is herself a Southern writer of note, and an estimate of her work will appear soon in our columns."