

particular grace, Mary is the necessary medium for the grace of graces. To sum it all up in one word, she is the mother of perseverance.

That is the reason why the Church, always guided by God, has willed that the *Ave Maria*, that filial prayer of Mary's clients, should contain expressly and completely the request of the grace of perseverance. "Holy Mary, Mother of God, do we say, pray for us, sinners, now and at the hour of our death." Admirable supplication of the Christian who wishes to persevere. "I am a sinner, says he, a sinner essentially, and irremediably, and yet I would reach heaven. If grace does not hold me up, I will fall fainting by the way-side. Pray then for me, now, O Mother of God, and grant to your sinful child assistance for his journey. But when I shall have reached the end, I shall require assistance for the passage. Pray then for me, not only now, but at the hour of my death. Amen."

O Ave Maria! O prayer of Salvation, O wisdom and hope of sinners, O treasure of the persevering Christian, come and come again without ceasing to my suppliant lips, so that by thy virtue, beloved prayer, I may be one day numbered among those who will be saved for having prayed.

This heavenly traffic between the Christian who asks for perseverance, and Mary who obtains it for him, supposes on the part of both perpetuity, continuance; on our side, perpetual prayer, on Mary's side, perpetual succor.

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That Virgin, whose name is blessed, exists. God who multiplies consolations as fast as desolation spreads over the earth, God has given her unto us. It is Our Lady of Perpetual Help, it is that beloved Virgin, lately replaced on the altars of the Church, and whose glory, whose name and holy pictures have since then attracted and consoled thousands of the faithful.