

into ruins, she will ever pray and plead for them to God, and she will never surrender her hold on them and her abiding and loving interest in them, until that day when she herself will look her last on a perishing world, and will be taken up into Heaven — to be there the New Jerusalem — where God will wipe away all tears — where death shall be no more, nor mourning nor weeping shall not be any more.

O, Dearest brethren, let us not fail to pray for the dead. Death has merely parted them from us as to their bodily presence, but he has not severed their immortal souls from communion with us, nor from the graces and mercies of Christ. "The souls of the faithful departed," says St. Augustine, "are not separated from the Church, which is the Kingdom of Christ, for otherwise there would not be a commemoration made of them at the Altar of God in the communion of the body of Christ." The souls in Purgatory are in the Kingdom of Christ's infinite mercy and compassion, as well as of His justice. Pray for them as Martha prayed for her dead brother, and obtained his return to life. Bring them in faith and hopefulness before the mercy seat of our Lord, even as the widow of Naim carried her dead son to Him, and he will have compassion on them, and will say: "I say to you arise." And the dead will hear the voice of Christ releasing them from prison and from pain, and they will arise to the company of the just, to the citizenship of Heaven, to the home of God; where, in the words of holy writ, "they shall be before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and He that sitteth on the throne shall dwell over them, and they shall not hunger nor thirst any more, neither shall the sun fall on them, nor any heat, for the lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall rule them, and shall lead them to the fountains of the waters of life, and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes." (Apoc. viic., 15, 6, 7, 16.)

Among the suffering souls there may be some whom we are especially bound to aid. There may be some who have shared the joys of our past life, and some who have shared

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