

their eternity depends. This very day more than eighty thousand souls will be summoned to appear before God's judgment-seat. Alas, how many thousands of that great total are taken unawares by death's premonition, while in a state of mortal sin! How many others are dismayed by the outslaughts of the devil, or appalled through fear of the Sovereign Judge! Pray for them this very day, and without loss of time — to-morrow it will be too late. You pray for the Souls in Purgatory, — and what charitable plans have you not already formed for this present month of November — and yet their happiness is assured though it be deferred for a time: but you are unmindful of those who are in their last agony and whose salvation is uncertain! You pray for the conversion of sinners and of unbelievers, though you are aware that as long as they are in health the evil of delay is not necessarily irreparable: and you would neglect those who are at the point of death, and who are already on the threshold of eternity! In a day, in an hour, in a minute, it will be heaven or hell for them, and that for ever and ever!

Can we not hear our dear Lord Himself pleading their cause, and whispering to our own souls:— “I have partaken of the bitterness of all the agonies of men. For all those in agony I have a special care, and their very abandonment appeals most forcibly to My Heart. I know full well what it is to be abandoned. During My agony on the cross, I gave vent to My anguish at being abandoned by My Father, though at the foot of the cross stood Mary My Mother, and John My beloved disciple. In My agony in the Garden, it was with poignant grief that I beheld the indifference and drowsiness of My apostles. It was to you, as well as to them, that I spoke, when I bade them watch and pray that they might not enter into temptation. But *watch and pray* also for those in their last agony, for those who are suffering and dying this day and every day, and at this very moment while I am whispering to your heart.”