

The Holy Viaticum is in itself Jesus, the Christ Saviour, giving Himself for the sole end of sustaining the dying, of strengthening them, of combating for them, and of leading them securely through the gloomy portals of death. All the desires, all the virtues, all the love, all the power of Jesus, are centred on the dying. The whole price of His Flesh and Blood, His life and His death, His Soul and His Divinity given to the dying, in order to aid them to die well — that is Holy Viaticum. Do we comprehend the importance of that help, the price of that grace?

The Holy Viaticum well received is heaven secured! Let us supplicate our sweet Mother, by the Viaticum that she received, to obtain for us the same grace.

Let us ask her to accompany her Son to our dying pillow, to encourage us by her smile; I mean by exciting our confidence in His goodness. Beg her to obtain for us all the strength necessary for the last assault of Satan, and still better, let us beg her to resist the infernal monster herself. O sweet death, protected, enlightened, and rendered easy by the presence of Mary! O what comfort shall we find in pressing to our lips, already chilled by death, her familiar picture, in passing her chaplet through our stiffening fingers as death gains upon us! Her sweet name will still sound in our ears like a far-off voice from heaven even when, closed to the din of earth, it no longer hearkens to the consoling words of friends and relations.

Let us pray for all the dying, for the ignorant, the rebellious. Mary can obtain sudden illumination for them, and the grace of conversion powerful enough to triumph over their obstinacy.

Lastly, let us pray that Mary may everywhere raise up apostles and soldiers for the Holy Viaticum. Let us beg her to make them understand that it is the most necessary charity, for it is so urgent — that it is the most meritorious and unselfish, for it demands a sacrifice — the dearest to the Hearts of Jesus and Mary, for it is that which places forever in their eternal embrace the dearly loved souls of their children.

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#### OUR BELOVED DECEASED.

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We recommend to the charitable prayers of our readers the soul of Rev. Father Gregory O'Brien, S. J., and Father William Doherty, S. J.

R. I. P.