

Virgin most amiable, make us constant and ever faithful in our loving service of thee, that we also may deserve to die this fair and happy death ! Pater, Ave and Gloria.

EIGHTH DAY.

That the Habit of Mount Carmel
Greatly Abbreviates the Pains
of Purgatory.

I. Most generous Virgin, thy partial affection overpasses comprehension ! How attentive it renders thee to the common good, to the common advantage of the Brothers and Sisters of Carmel ! Not content with aiding and protecting them continually in life and in death, thy maternal love would continue its special care of them even in Purgatory. This grace, O Mary, the crown of all other graces, is indeed worthy of the Mother of Mercies. Pater, Ave and Gloria.

II. Other friends, forgetting us in a very short time, perhaps, after our death, will leave us to suffer in Purgatory, uncomfortable. Mary, on the other hand, will look upon us even there with loving eyes, when, through flames and torments, we lift our hands to her for timely aid. Blessed a thousand times be thy holy Habit, O Mary, which makes us sons of so tender and pitiful a Mother ! Pater, Ave and Gloria.

III. While the remembrance of our excessive debt to God brings with it no ordinary dread—in case, even, of the Christian soul, aware that it has to expiate all in the fearful fires of Purgatory, — the Brothers of Mount Carmel, on the contrary, only rejoice, still putting their trust in Mary. For she will be to them that cooling air, which alone can mitigate the flames of its fiery furnace ! She can also break its strictest chains and fetters and draw them forth from the flames, loosed and set free unto salvation. Pater, Ave and Gloria.

IV. Like a tender mother who feels the sufferings of her children, thou hast assured us, O Mary, that thou wilt promptly aid and succor

thine own clients amid the torrents of Purgatory ;—and, being softly troubled for them, thou hast promised thine ever effectual intercession with thy Divine Son that He would condescend to receive them, as reconciled children, into the bosom of His mercy. O Mary, thou art indeed a Mother truly amiable and ever worthy of our love ! Pater, Ave and Gloria.

V. For the greater strengthening of our hopes, the Blessed Virgin has indicated Saturday as the day when she will herself appear in visible form to her devoted clients of Carmel doing penance in Purgatory, and, taking from their souls all woe and anxiety, conduct them in triumph to the realms of glory. O Mary, our sweetness and our hope, lead us to honor this day with especial reverence and devotion, that it may become the day of our blessed liberation and our eternal repose. Pater, Ave and Gloria.

VI. How fair and luminous will be the dawn of that Saturday in Purgatory for the Brothers and Sisters of Carmel ! With what exultant joy their hearts will swell at the hope of that glorious day, which will change their tears to everlasting bliss. O Blessed Advocate, full of pity, help us to observe faithfully the obligations attached to so great a privilege that we may attain and ever safely enjoy the fruits of thy dear promises. Pater, Ave and Gloria.

VII. Oh, how many Brothers and Sisters of Mount Carmel, — having been in life the tender clients of their dear Mother Mary, and freed, at the point of death, from all punishable sins, thanks to her holy Habit and its treasure of Indulgences, — have seen themselves, on that great day of Saturday, borne directly from earth to heaven ! But, if we ourselves do not merit this at thy hands, O Mary, grant that we may at least hope for it, that in this hope we may daily live and in this hope serenely die ! Pater, Ave and Gloria.