

Carmelites of the Holy Face

St. Joseph's Carmelite Hermitage, O.Carm
Inchincurka, Dunmanway, Co. Cork, Rep. of Ireland



Website: carmelitesholyface.com

Issue 17 — November 2021

“It is therefore a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead, that they may be loosed from sins.” (2 Machabees 12:46)

Dear Friends & Benefactors,

The month of the Holy Souls is at hand, so it did not take us long to decide on the theme for this issue of our newsletter. The remembrance of Purgatory, of the souls who suffer there and of what we can do to help them, are thoughts which should never be far from our minds; but the Church wishes us to think of these things especially during the month of November.

As the situation in the world is rapidly growing worse and as the persecution of faithful Catholics and of all who are resisting the New World Order is increasing from day to day, it is important to understand how these very trials we are experiencing can be of benefit to the Souls in Purgatory as well as to ourselves.

The existence of Purgatory is as certain as the existence of Heaven and Hell. The Protestants deny it however, and their Bibles do not include the Two Books of Machabees which provide the clearest Scriptural evidence of Purgatory; yet other passages in Holy Scripture, the constant tradition of the Church and reason itself, show us how logical and at the same time how consoling is the Catholic Doctrine regarding Purgatory.

“Sweet is the consolation of the dying man, who, conscious of imperfection, believes that there are others to make intercession for him when his own time for merit has expired; soothing to the afflicted survivors the thought that they possess powerful means of relieving their friend....”



...” — Cardinal Wiseman

Those without Faith dismiss the idea of Purgatory because it cannot be seen with bodily eyes, and to profess they believe in its existence would be to deny the comfortable idea that after death everyone goes straight to Heaven (or maybe to Hell if they are very wicked). People in general have lost the

awareness of the gravity of sin and its consequences because they have very little Faith anymore.

Catholics who do know their Faith, however, regard Purgatory not merely as a place of punishment, similar to Hell except in its duration (which it is), but as a place of purification in which souls who are unworthy of Heaven and who did not die in the state of mortal sin, are detained by the merciful justice of God.

There are very few souls who can be admitted directly into Heaven after death on account of the Infinite Perfection of God, which demands that reparation or atonement must be made for every fault committed here on earth. It is possible to escape Purgatory altogether as some of the saints have done — and this is God's will for each of us — but it seldom happens because we do not make enough effort to reach perfection in this life.

“For this is the will of God, your sanctification...” — Thessalonians 4:3

The sufferings of Purgatory are of three kinds. The least of these is the physical pain caused by the fires of Purgatory, although this pain, as St. Augustine says, is greater than anything we can suffer in this life. The second kind of suffering the Holy Souls endure in Purgatory is the deep regret they have for the opportunities they neglected, which would have enabled them to suffer their Purgatory while on earth and to gain merit at the same time. In Purgatory they suffer with resignation, but without merit. They can see clearly what effect their sins have had upon others; how many souls they could have saved, and how much merit they could have won, but now this knowledge is of no benefit to them and only serves to increase their sufferings. The greatest pain of all, however, is the pain of loss. They love God and they want to be with Him but they are held back by the debt of satisfaction which has to be paid. We, who are distracted by many temporal things, cannot comprehend how great is the pain of these souls who desire with all their hearts to be with God but who must hear the solemn sentence pronounced upon them:

“Amen I say to thee, thou shalt not go out from thence till thou repay the last farthing” — Matthew 5:26

We all have a debt to be paid to God, not only on account of our sins of thought, word, deed, and omission, but also on account of the graces and benefits we have received from God. The more we have received from God, the greater our debt will be. We have many ways of paying this debt while we are alive, especially by prayer, penance and almsgiving, as well as by making use of the spiritual riches the Church offers us through the Sacraments and indulgences. After death, provided we die in the state of grace, any remains of

this debt will have to be paid in Purgatory. How foolish it would be to wait until that time to pay our debts; to enter eternity unprepared! But even while we must not neglect our own souls, Christian charity should prompt us to help those souls who can no longer help themselves.

“...Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.” — Matthew 22:39

We can help the Holy Souls in the same way in which we pay off our own spiritual debts: by prayer, penance, almsgiving, assisting at Holy Mass and the performance of other good works. They experience the greatest relief through the Holy Masses which are offered for them and assisted at on their behalf. They will be eternally grateful for any assistance we give them, and we will thus gain for ourselves a multitude of intercessors for ourselves at the moment when we shall be called to render an account of our own lives and to pay our own spiritual debts.

“Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.” — Matthew 5:7



Today there are very few of us who are called to go in search of extraordinary penances, since now more than ever, sufferings and trials are not wanting to all those who are earnestly trying to serve God and to keep His commandments. We must not underestimate – as we often tend to do – the value of the sufferings we meet with in the course of our daily life, if we simply accept them and offer them to God in a spirit of willing self-sacrifice. This is especially true of the small and hidden crosses we have to carry, without anyone noticing them and without having gone in search for them. Do not think that you will become a saint only by doing great penances and saying many prayers. The most valuable penances in the eyes of God are often those very ones we are inclined to overlook because they seem so little and insignificant – so **ordinary**.

These trials differ for each of us. Some may be experiencing financial hardships, difficulties at home or at work due to the pressure being put on you to take the green pass; others have interior struggles, heavy responsibilities, difficult decisions to make and daily crosses of many kinds. The important thing is not **what** we suffer, but that we accept these sufferings in a spirit of reparation for our own sins and the sins of others. These are our golden opportunities of consoling Our Lord and Our Lady; our chances to be

true Veronicas, loyal Christians and valiant soldiers of Christ. This spirit of reparation and self-sacrifice is what enables us to draw the utmost profit from the Masses we are able to attend. And even when we are prevented from assisting at Mass, we can assist at the Holy Sacrifice **in spirit** as often as we offer ourselves in sacrifice together with Our Lord Jesus Christ – the same Divine Victim who is offered to God in the Mass.

As for almsgiving, although many of you may be experiencing financial difficulties and hence cannot give as much as you would wish, remember the value of spiritual almsgiving which even the poorest can give. Try to profit from ejaculations, short indulgenced prayers throughout the day. These take but a moment, yet they can be worth as much as 300 days of severe penance as it used to be performed by public penitents in the early Church. If you only knew how much comfort the Holy Souls derive from this form of almsgiving, you would never let a day go by without giving a spiritual alms!

Frequent ejaculations will also help you to keep a spirit of prayer throughout the day by raising your mind and heart to God and earnestly striving to accomplish His holy will. This spirit of prayer is what gives value to any vocal prayers which might otherwise be said with little profit either for yourselves or for the Holy Souls.

Finally, dear brothers and sisters in Christ, however great the hardships may be that we are experiencing or which may soon come upon us, let us never lose sight of the one thing necessary. Let us have no fear of those who can kill the body or restrict our freedoms and strip us of our material possessions, for all these things are not what really matters. We must hold fast to the Faith, and wait in hope for the reward which is promised to those who persevere. It may very well be that God will allow this sort of white martyrdom to serve as our purgatory on earth and that we may thereby be granted the grace of passing immediately from this life into the Beatific Vision without ever experiencing the most painful sufferings endured by the Souls in Purgatory.



FRIEND, LEND ME BREAD

(The Cry of a Soul in Purgatory)

You call yourself "Friend;"
Arise then, and lend
Me the bread which I ardently crave.
With insistence I plead,
Your assistance I need,
For I'm helpless this side of the grave.

You call yourself "Friend;"
Yet love has no end;
I suffer in Purgatory's flames.
There are thousands more too
Depending on you –
We are more than a long list of names!

You call yourself "Friend;"
But do you intend
To have any Masses said?
And will you forget
We are suffering yet,
Deprived of that Spiritual Bread?

You call yourself "Friend;"
And will you not spend
A few moments daily in prayer?
The souls of the dead
Cry out for that bread
Which brings us such comfort here.

You call yourself "Friend;"
Yet you can't comprehend
How we long for an alms from you.
What you give to the poor
Is the bread we implore,
For it lessens our sufferings too.

You call yourself "Friend;"
On your help we depend,
Through Masses, almsgiving and prayer.
These three loaves of bread
Are sought by the dead,
And we plead for them year after year.

You call yourself "Friend;"
Arise then, and lend
Us the bread which we ardently crave;
And our debt we shall pay
In a generous way,
When you join us this side of the grave.

Cf. Luke 11:5



Hermitage News

- ✦ August 2021 – A kind benefactor named Michael spent several days at the Hermitage completing a galvanised roof and shelter which had to be added to our temporary shipping container Oratory to make it waterproof.
- ✦ 26th August – We received a beautiful letter of support from Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano, invoking God’s blessing upon us and all who will join us. This letter can be seen on our website:
carmelitesholyface.com/support
- ✦ September 2021 – Another good benefactor named James used his time and skill in photography to make a short professional video showing various aspects of our life. This video can be seen on Youtube and is entitled “Vocation to the Carmelite Way.”
- ✦ 14th September – On this Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross, we began to imitate the devotional practice of Leo Dupont, the Holy Man of Tours, by keeping an oil lamp constantly burning before our relic image of the Holy Face which hangs in our Oratory. Since that day this lamp has continued to burn in honour of the Holy Face of Jesus, and in gratitude for the charity of our benefactors.



Small bottles of the blessed oil from this lamp are available upon request, and over 120 of these have already been distributed. Among the letters of thanks we received, one woman said she had experienced almost instant relief from a bad attack of asthma (which had prevented her from attending Mass) after she used this oil with faith. Another woman said that the oil she received had “a most beautiful aroma”, although the blessed oil had nothing else added to it and had no noticeable scent when bottled. These blessings obtained by means of the Holy Oil have given us a greater assurance that God is pleased by the reparation offered to His Holy Face.



- ✦ 9th October – The greater portion of the new roof of the house was completed. It was very kindly sponsored by a charitable organisation especially dedicated to the Suffering Souls in Purgatory.
- ✦ 17th October – St. Joseph’s Hermitage was finally blessed by a visiting priest, and Holy Mass was offered for the second time in our little Oratory.
- ✦ 19th October – A new well was drilled to provide us with plenty of clean fresh water.
- ✦ 30th October – Georgina from Canada arrived for a three-week live-in experience in order to give both her and us an opportunity to discern her vocation.



The garden this year gave us a wonderful harvest and we are still enjoying our home-grown onions, potatoes, cabbages and greens.

Three more cells are due to arrive shortly to enable us to receive more vocations when it should please God to send them to us.



We are pleased to be able to tell you that the repair of the house is progressing slowly but surely. The new roof, walls, windows and doors are in place, while the builders have begun work on the interior. The plumber and electrician have also begun putting in the necessary pipes and wires. Though we have yet to receive the bills for the interior work, we are confident that St. Joseph will continue to provide for our needs through the charity of you, our dear benefactors. We are deeply grateful to you all, and you are remembered in our daily prayers. We count on your prayers for us too, especially so that we might soon be blessed with a chaplain and more vocations.

May God bless and reward you for your charity!

Your Sisters in Christ & Mary,

Mother Irene of the Holy Face O.Carm and Community

Available from our Carmelite Shop:

Hand-made blue plastic Rosary beads with Miraculous Medal.....	€6.00
Hand made Greeting & Mass Cards.....	€3.00 each or €25.00 for 10
Brown wool Scapulars of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel.....	€3.00
Large Ornate St. Benedict Medal (Colour: Silver).....	€7.00
St. Christopher & St. Anthony Bronze Medal.....	€4.50
Heavy Copper-Coloured Crucifix Key Ring.....	€9.50
St. Benedict Copper- Coloured Crucifix.....	€2.00
1 Decade Chaplet Rosary Beads.....	€3.50
Wooden Rosary Beads (black or brown) with painted wooden crucifix.....	€5.00
Holy Face Medal (Shroud Image).....	€1.00
Holy Face Medal 3D (Colours: Bronze, Gold, Silver).....	€2.00
Miraculous Medal, Small (Colours: Gold, Silver).....	€1.00
Pardon Crucifix (Colours: Gold, Silver).....	€7.00
Blessed 100% Beeswax Candle.....	offering, €0.50
Blessed Salt.....	Free

HOW TO HELP US?

- ✓ **By your prayers**, especially that Our Lord will send us good vocations, courageous “Veronicas” to wipe and honour His Adorable Face and make reparation for poor sinners.

- ✓ **By your generosity**: bank transfer made payable to

**Mother (Sr.) Irene Gibson
Carmelite Nuns of the Holy Face
St. Joseph's Carmelite Hermitage
Inchincurka, Dunmanway,
Co Cork**

**Bank Name: Bank of Ireland
Bank Address: Westport Co Mayo
Bank Identifier Code (BIC): B0F1IE2D
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