

A PRAYER FOR THE SOULS IN PURGATORY

***O** most gentle Heart of Jesus, ever present in the Blessed Sacrament, ever consumed with burning love for the poor captive souls in Purgatory, have mercy on the souls of Thy departed servants. Be not severe in Thy judgments, but let some drops of Thy Precious Blood fall upon the devouring flames. And do Thou, O Merciful Savior, send Thy holy angels to conduct them to a place of refreshment, light, and peace. Amen.

Please remember the Holy Souls in Purgatory, In your prayers, this Christmas.

In the joys and festivities of this wonderful day of Christmas, please remember to pray for the Holy Souls in Purgatory, during your Christmas Mass and throughout the day. During the Octave of Christmas, (Christmas to New Year's Day) please help these poor Holy Souls with your prayers and sacrifices. It does not need to be complicated. A simple prayer, like the Hail Mary and (or a prayer as above) or an act of kindness, offered for them, will become of great value. Moreover, these souls will repay you for thinking of them, many times over.

**(excerpted from: www.angelqueen.org)*



The priest now determined to get the facts, turned but the pews were empty! The people had vanished!

Where had they gone?

Back to Purgatory, or had they been released by our prayers?

***Just** think of the power and privilege God has given us. The power to release and relieve the Holy Souls. How AWESOME! Nothing gives God more glory, nothing gives Him more honor to His Holy Name, nothing rejoices His Heart more than charity for the Holy Souls. To open Heaven to the Holy souls increases the numbers who praise and glorify God. St. Thomas Aquinas said, "Of all prayers, the most meritorious, the most acceptable to God are prayers for the dead, because they employ all the works of charity both corporal and spiritual. Give the Holy Souls Jesus so they too may have the gift of adoring our Lord and all His glory this Christmas. Make their desire your desire. Rest assured, they are ready and waiting to help you. **(by author Susan Tassone and excerpted from: www.medjugorjeusa.org)*

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THE NIGHT OF CHRISTMAS

(AN UNFORGETTABLE HAPPENING)

BY REV. SAGUNDO LLORANTE, S.J.



****A NUN, SUFFERING IN PURGATORY,
REVEALED TO ANOTHER NUN THAT:
"IT IS NOT, HOWEVER, ON ALL SOULS DAY
THAT MOST GO TO HEAVEN,
IT IS ON CHRISTMAS NIGHT."***

**(excerpted from: www.angelqueen.org)*

The Night of Christmas

by Rev. Sagundo Llorante, S.J.

**A* priest told me what happened to him once in his first parish. After the Midnight Mass on Christmas Day he personally locked the church. With the keys in his pocket he went to his room and had a good sleep.

At 7:30 a.m. he got up and went back to church intending to have one hour of prayer all to himself. He opened the side door leading to the sacristy, turned on the light and then turned on a couple of lights for the church.

As he opened the sacristy door and walked into the church, he literally froze. Most of the pews were occupied by strange people clad in the poorest clothes and all were in total silence. No one so much as wiggled and nobody cared to look at him.



The Strange Scene

A small group was standing by the Nativity scene contemplating the manger in total silence.

The priest recovered quickly and in a loud voice asked them how they got in. Nobody answered. He walked closer to them and asked again, who let them in? A woman answered totally unconcerned: "Strange things happen on Christmas night." And back to total silence. The priest went to check the main door and found it locked just as he had left it. He was now determined to get the facts and turned to face the pews, but they were empty. The people had vanished.

He kept this puzzle to himself for some time. Unable to hold it back any longer he told me just what I have told you. Could I help with any plausible explanation? Let me hurry to say that the priest in question is a model of sanity and is as well educated academically as most of the priests I know, if not better.

My explanation was and still is as follows: Those were dead people who were doing their purgatory, or a part of it, in the church. It is safe to assume that we atone for our sins where we committed them. Those people were immersed in total silence. Why?

Consider the irreverence committed before the Blessed Sacrament; how some people act in church; all the chatting, giggling, looking around. After Mass some people gather in small groups around the pews and turn the church into a market place with no regard for Christ's Real Presence in the tabernacle.



Why did they vanish? They did not vanish. They simply became invisible; but they remained tied to their pews unable to utter one single word to atone for their disrespectful chatter while living.

The Blessed Sacrament is no laughing matter. There is a price tag to all we do or say. In the end it is God who gets the last laugh - so to speak. Those people had to give the Blessed Sacrament the adoration and respect that Christ deserves. For how long? Only God can answer that. Why did the priest see them? So he could pray for them and for all other poor souls detained in the churches.

Unseen by Others

Why didn't other priests see those people? Well, perhaps they already know in theory that souls can be detained in churches as well as anywhere else, so they do not need a miracle.

Why were they clad in such poor clothes? To atone for their vanity while living. People often use clothes not so much to cover their nakedness as for a status symbol to impress others. But God is not impressed by mink coats.

Also, people walk into church with hardly any clothes. In the summer months it is not unusual for people mostly women, to go to receive Holy Communion in the most indecent clothing. The pastor may or may not put up with it; but God will have his day in court about this. Rags could be an appropriate punishment for these excesses.

* (excerpted from Key to Happiness magazine, Dec. 1985 as found on 101website)