



Holy Souls Sodality

For Heaven's Sake

www.PrayForSouls.org

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Dear Members,

During this Advent season and as the celebration of the birth of Jesus approaches, I wanted to pass on some of the stories our members have shared with me about their devotion to the Holy Souls.

Remembered at Christmas

In this story, I want to turn first to Christmas, because it's important to remember the Holy Souls in Purgatory during this time of year. They are the ones who are most in need of spiritual gifts this Christmas, yet they are so often forgotten and overlooked during these times of joyful festivities.

"I still remember the Christmas after my brother died," Dave said. "On Christmas day, we celebrated his life by sharing stories about his life and giving each other keepsakes from his life, like photos of him on different occasions, as gifts.

"That Christmas, my mother also hung the stocking she had made for him. In her heart, in her own way, she filled it with spiritual gifts for him, including prayers for a speedy entrance into heaven.

"Now, of course, we remember all our deceased family members in a special way in Mass and prayer since they can't be with us on Christmas day in bodily form, at least."

Remembering those forgotten

After 13 years of marriage, Nancy's husband died of cancer one year after her



One way to remember the Holy Souls during the Christmas season is to hang photos of your departed relatives on your Christmas tree. They are the ones who are most in need of spiritual gifts this Christmas and who are so forgotten and overlooked during these times of joyful festivities.

father had died. Then her mother died.

"I seemed to be in a perpetual state of mourning and had an overwhelming sense of abandonment," Nancy said.

But it's clear that Jesus had not abandoned her. He found a way to lead her to a new mission.

One day, Nancy was reading the local newspaper about the suicide of a man whose parents refused to acknowledge his existence and wouldn't even bury him. He was totally abandoned in life and death.

"That day, I began reading about purgatory and, much to my astonishment, devotion to the Holy Souls became a passion for me," she said.

"I ordered all of Susan Tassone's books and began praying daily for the Holy Souls. I also began reading the Sunday paper obituaries for those that included 'no known survivors.' How heartbreaking that no one will remember and pray for you. So each time I saw this type of obituary, I would cut it out and place it in a special remembrance prayer book. I send each of those names to the Marian Fathers for a Mass and prayer."

Matching socks for the Holy Souls

Kathleen shared with me that there is time to pray for the Holy Souls while

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doing simple, mundane chores.

"I take care of three elderly sisters," Kathleen said. "One of them I became friendly with years ago, and then I started helping the other two sisters. I was helping Rose clean her bureau drawers when I saw a prayer for the Holy Souls in Purgatory.

"It was a prayer followed by three Our Fathers, Hail Marys, and Glory Bes. I thought to myself, I can do this each day. But I prayed that the Holy Spirit would remind me. Well, like you [Fr. Dan Cambra, MIC], I get woken up in the middle of the night and I say these prayers. So easy, but so powerful. I haven't missed a night in months."

But Kathleen said she also had another influence that led her to pray for the Holy Souls in Purgatory.

"After my father's death 20 years ago, my mother came to live with me. We created an apartment for her downstairs. I had four children in school at the time and washed

clothes every day. My mother would help me fold my clothes and match the socks. She told me that she offered this for the Holy Souls in Purgatory. She told me to never forget the souls. When she died 10 years ago on Nov. 1, 'All Saints Day,' we all said that she must have met many souls that she had prayed for in purgatory.

"Now I am a grandmother. I help my daughter fold clothes and match all the tiny socks for the souls. I pray that when the souls reach heaven, they will pray for

me and my family."

I hope these members' stories have helped you consider some new ways you can take time to pray for the Holy Souls.

Sincerely in The Divine Mercy and Mary Immaculate,



Very Rev. Dan Cambra, MIC

More reasons to visit prayforsouls.org

If you would like to send us additional names of loved ones to remember in the daily Mass offered for the Holy Souls, go to our website (prayforsouls.org). On the menu bar, select "Prayers, Masses, Sacrifices." Then select "Send us Holy Souls' Intentions for Masses." As long as you also include your name in the place provided, your intentions will be added to your list.

It's now possible to renew your membership in the Sodality online. Just select "Join-Renew" on the menu bar and follow the instructions.

Tips for December

- Offer your Mass and an indulgence for the Holy Souls on Christmas Day. Especially remember those souls who are most in need of spiritual gifts this Christmas and who are so forgotten and overlooked during these times of joyful festivities. Realize that the benefits of any indulgences you give to the departed come back to you.
- Place a special ornament on your Christmas tree or wreath in remembrance of the Holy Souls in Purgatory, especially for your own departed loved ones.
- Include the St. Gertrude Prayer (found at prayforsouls.org) in your Christmas cards. Our Lord said 1,000 Holy Souls are released from Purgatory every time St. Gertrude's Prayer is said.
- Light blessed candles. The burning of a candle is a sign of our prayer, a bright, silent intercessor for the Holy Souls.
- During the Advent season, offer alms in atonement for the sins of those in Purgatory.

Source: Praying with the Saints for the Holy Souls in Purgatory by Susan Tassone

How I help the Holy Souls



Father Dan Malone, MIC, the new shrine rector of the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy, has a great devotion to the Holy Souls in Purgatory.

"It's all about awareness," Fr. Dan said. "There is such a need for us to pray for the Holy Souls. We can't forget them. There is a saying: 'we die three times. First is our death, second is when we are lowered into the ground, and third is when they forget about us.' It is such a great act of charity to pray for the Holy Souls.

"As I started to investigate my faith, I found that praying for the Holy Souls is backed up by Scripture (see 2 Macc 12:43-46). That really energized me — the Word of God speaking to me about remembering the Holy Souls.

"Saint Gertrude was another great influence on me. Her complete donation of all her works of satisfaction to the departed was such a selfless act. And to be reassured by the Lord that the pains she would have endured in the other life were now remitted. It was a win-win. That really hit me hard. Praying for the Holy Souls is such a great way to be merciful"

Father Dan said that his path to joining the Marians is also connected to his devotion: "I was doing my part, being faithful in praying for the dead, and it carried over into my priesthood. I was looking for a religious community, and I did a Google search. The only men's religious congregation that I could find that had a charism for being devoted to the holy souls was the Marians of the Immaculate Conception. It's a mystery the Lord has put on my heart."

