



Holy Souls
Sodality

For Heaven's Sake

www.PrayForSouls.org

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Dear Members,

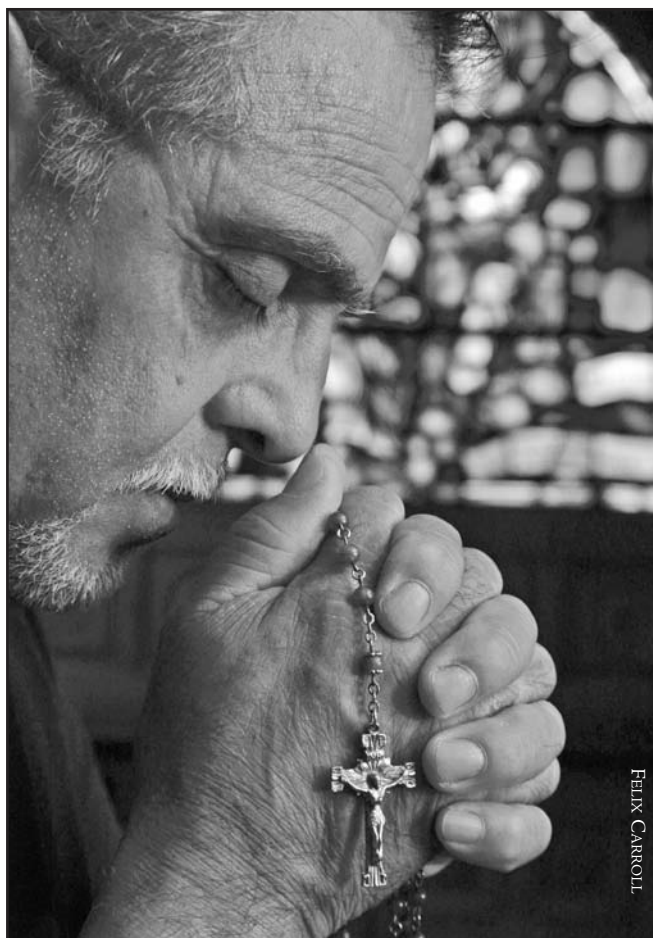
Brother Chris, who is a temporarily professed member of the Marian Fathers and Brothers, assists me in making presentations in parishes throughout New England. I've asked him to relate this story about how it was that he came to pray The Divine Mercy Chaplet for his grandmother who died a number of years ago.

My grandmother passed away in 1993 and at that time, I wasn't quite yet back into my faith. I had always been Catholic, but I had never really fully understood the treasures of our Catholic faith — like how we can pray for the Holy Souls. Well, one day in 2003, 10 years after my grandmother had died, I went to a priest and he told me all about Divine Mercy and The Divine Mercy Chaplet.

I was intrigued by the chaplet because he told me how powerful it is for the sick and the dying. So I told the priest I wish I had had this prayer for my grandmother 10 years ago.

And he looked at me and said, "God transcends time. God is outside of time. In eternity, there is no past, there's no future. There's just one big, eternal now."

"Chris, God knew back in 1993 that you were going to be here today, 10 years later. So go home and pray the chaplet



FELIX CARROLL

God transcends time. In eternity, there is no past, there's no future. There's just one big, eternal now. Prayers you say now will be showered upon the Holy Souls through the grace of God back in the time of their judgment, no matter how long ago.

for your grandmother."

I was still a little unsure so I said, "But, Father, she's already been judged. She's in heaven, hell, or purgatory, and I pray that she's in heaven, But I can't change that."

"Oh, Chris," the priest said. "Absolutely, your prayer can be very significant for what we call the Holy Souls, the poor

souls in purgatory. Because what happens is all the graces from that prayer that you are going to do tonight will be showered upon your grandmother at the moment of her death, even at the moment of her judgment. The fact that it's 10 years ago to God means nothing. God is outside of time, there's no 10 years ago to God. So, the grace of you praying for your grandmother will definitely be applied to her at the moment of her judgment," he said.

He also explained how powerful those graces are because there are some souls that may have despaired at the end of their life. This gave me hope because my grandmother may have despaired at the end of her life. He said those are souls that especially need any kind of grace that can be showered upon them at that moment.

"Your prayer, even though it's 10 years in the future, will be showered upon your grandmother through the grace of God back in the time of her

judgment which you think was 10 years, in your mind."

"Father, that's amazing," I replied. "So my prayers can have grace applied at the moment of her judgment that will allow her to say, in some little way, 'yes' to God?"

Continued on reverse →

"Absolutely," he said. "That prayer is very huge for that holy soul."

Then he went on to say that even souls that are in purgatory — friends, relatives, past people that you knew — those souls may still be crying for prayer. They can't be released to heaven until we pray for them because that's the way the body of Christ works. We are all part of the body of Christ and we have to, on earth, pray for the deceased. And when we pray for the deceased, many times that will allow atonement and those prayers will allow that soul God's mercy to allow them to heaven.

Then I asked him, "So you mean, Father, that praying right now for someone who died years ago can help them?"

He said, "not only can it help them — it will help them. Sometimes souls continue to suffer because no one is praying for them. So your grandmother may be suffering if no one is praying for her."

After our talk, I ran right home and

prayed for her. After I said the Chaplet, I had this rush go through me. It was a sense of peace. I got this feeling that my grandmother was now at rest, at peace, and had been allowed into heaven. I'm not saying that I know for sure, but I just had this peace that The Divine Mercy Chaplet released my grandmother from suffering because of God's mercy — not because of what I did. But, God's mercy allows us as the body of Christ to pray for each other. I just feel that God accepted that prayer and my grandmother, as a holy soul, was released from purgatory. I am very grateful for this priest who taught me about Divine Mercy and to be able to help my grandmother in a way that is so powerful.

We have the power as the living to help relieve the suffering of the dead. We can pray for them. They can't pray for themselves. So it is our duty as members of the body of Christ to pray for those deceased like my grandmother. Our prayers are offered in atonement

for their sins, and then they can be, through the mercy of God, released into heaven. But we have to pray for them. If no one is praying for them, in many ways they may continue to suffer. And I feel perhaps that my prayers for my grandmother were accepted by God as atonement, and she was allowed to end the suffering.

So like Br. Chris, I now highly recommend The Divine Mercy Chaplet for those who are facing death. It is especially for those who may not have the light of faith, since they, in many cases, come to the end of their lives either worried or saddened. Through the Chaplet, my hope is that they will find peace in being resigned to the will of God.

Sincerely in The Divine Mercy and Mary Immaculate,



Very Rev. Dan Cambra, MIC

Tips for August

Blessed Mary of Providence offers wisdom:

"Let us make no other projects than to do God's will. If the souls in purgatory could exchange places with us, how gladly they would suffer, and how slight our sufferings seem to them! Those who cannot suffer cannot love."

"We must vigorously accept daily martyrdom of minute sacrifices. If we only knew what benefit it procured for the souls in purgatory."

"The souls in purgatory suffer without a moment's interruption. Their helpers must never cease a moment to assist them. How could we think of rest on earth?"

"Fear nothing except not to do the perfect will of God. The good Lord will contrive to weave a crown for you out of all the nothings you have offered up for His love."

"The heart of a helper, so close to purgatory, must always be on fire."

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

How I help the Holy Souls



Marie White usually says at least four Rosaries a day, but she always says every fourth decade of the Rosary for the Holy Souls in Purgatory.

"No matter when I wake up, I always say a Rosary for the Holy Souls. It's usually at the break of dawn. But sometimes I'll wake at 3 a.m., and I'll say the Chaplet of The Divine Mercy for the Holy Souls.

"Throughout my life, I've always said the Rosary as I woke up. But in this last year, I've made it a special point to dedicate it to the

Holy Souls in Purgatory."

Marie says that she's been praying for others for more than 30 years.

"A lot of people call me for intercessory prayers. I pray daily for others both here and in purgatory. I also say a prayer when I drive or walk by a cemetery. My son and I have had a lot of health issues recently, and I'm hoping the Holy Souls will intercede for me and my son."

Marie says that she has gained a greater focus on the Holy Souls in the past year after joining the Holy Souls Sodality and receiving the newsletter.

"The Holy Souls newsletter that the Marian Fathers send out is just such a blessing. I have also started saying three Hail Marys for the Holy Souls after getting a pamphlet with one of the newsletters."

