

Mary, the Rosary, Memorial Mass and Communion of Saints – pt. 2

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us rid ourselves of every burden and sin that clings to us and persevere in running the race that lies before us while keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, the leader and perfecter of faith. For the sake of the joy that lay before him he endured the cross, despising its shame, and has taken his seat at the right of the throne of God.

“Consider how he endured such opposition from sinners, in order that you may not grow weary and lose heart. In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood. You have also forgotten the exhortation addressed to you as sons: ‘My son, do not disdain the discipline of the Lord or lose heart when reprovved by him; for whom the Lord loves, he disciplines; he scourges every son he acknowledges.’ Endure your trials as ‘discipline’; God treats you as sons. For what ‘son’ is there whom his father does not discipline? If you are without discipline, in which all have shared, you are not sons but bastards.” – Heb. 12: 1-8



Last month I wrote about the Communion of Saints. This month I want to look at the Memorial Mass and how the two are related.

I've included the painting of the Communion of Saints. (It is from an original wood carving engraved by F. Bauchart in 1891. The writing in French underneath cites the "Catechism in Images" and is from a book that recreated and colored the image.) The beauty of this image is how it demonstrates the unity of the three facets of the Church centered on the Mass. Here we see the illustrated reality that our eyes deny us. Each time we, the Church Militant, attend Mass we are joined in the most profound way with the saints, the Church Triumphant, and angels in Heaven. The souls in Purgatory, the Church Suffering are also present.

The painting reminds us that as the priest is elevating the Blessed Sacrament, angels are pouring the graces of the Mass upon the souls of the suffering in Purgatory. There they find relief from their suffering.



This is why we offer Mass for the deceased: they need our prayers to ease their suffering. We need Mass as often as we can attend, because, not only are we perfected, but we can help ease the suffering of the souls in Purgatory. Plus, as a bonus, we are united with God and all of the souls in Heaven. This is why we offer Mass for our deceased brothers on the 2nd Friday of each month. As an additional bonus, after the Memorial Mass on July 12th, the Knights of this Council will be leading the Rosary. Come; raise your voice and heart in prayer to end abortion.

Last month, I mentioned how thinking about the Communion of Saints made me think about the intertwined relationships of the doctrines of our faith and how the Church exists on three levels; this is the second piece of that puzzle.



I invite you to re-read the passage from the letter to the Hebrews that I quoted above and look for the place where you fit in. Are you part of that “great cloud of witnesses?” Does your prayer ease the suffering of someone in need? Do you regard God with reverence? Do you attend Mass and frequent confession with reverence?

As I said last month, the passage above ends on a heavy note but that is God’s warning against trying to sneak into Heaven without doing the work we were created for. Get to work; get into the fight to save your soul. GO TO MASS! Go to the memorial Mass on the 2nd Friday of each month.

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The July business meeting is on Tuesday, July 2nd at 7:00pm. The second Friday Memorial Mass for the deceased Knights of this council is on Friday, July 12th at 5:45pm. The Respect Life Rosary resumes after the 5:45 Mass; please go! Don’t forget to make a good confession and get cleaned up spiritually.

Pray that God give us the grace to seek Him in prayer. Pray for the men and women who serve in law enforcement and the military. Pray that politicians have a conversion of heart. Pray for strong families. Above all, pray that Holy Mother Church around the world can withstand the buffets of her enemies. Pray for our priests and for our Holy Father Pope Francis.