



Missionarii Sancti Joannis Baptistæ

Vox clamantis in deserto, parate viam Domini

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“God Made Us Without Us, But He Will Not Save Us Without Us” — St. Augustine



IN GOD’S CREATION, merit is woven into its very fabric. This is why His Majesty had to merit our redemption starting with His meriting His Blessed Mother’s Immaculate Conception. It is by meriting now that we can avoid Purgatory later, and it is also by meriting now that we can help those suffering in Purgatory. God made us to merit but we can also demerit by not cooperating with Him. Merit signifies a work worthy of a reward or retribution. Thus, it involves a relationship between the work and the one rewarding.

In the Plan of God, for a work to be meritorious, a few things are required. (i) The good work must be performed by those still in their earthly time of trial. Thus, those in Heaven or Purgatory can no longer merit because the time for cooperating for rewards has passed. St. Paul: “each one may receive good or evil, according to what he has done in the body” (2Cor. 5:10). (ii) The one who performs the work is a friend of God, that is, he must be in a state of grace (of which the first grace is unmerited). Those in a state of sin (including original sin) cannot merit anything from God. St. Paul: “if I should distribute all my goods to feed the poor, and if I should deliver my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profit me nothing” (1Cor. 13:3). But after being raised by God’s mercy to a state of grace, then man must merit.

(iii) The action performed must be in itself virtuous . . . a good work, something pleasing to God, that is, the work must be within the authority of the one who performs it and be directed to the benefit of another (e.g., prayer, fasting, almsgiving, sacrifices for love of God and neighbor). If it is not pleasing to God, it is a demerit... canceling out our rewards and bringing upon us due punishment. (iv) The action must be freely done with God. God grants an actual grace for every particular virtuous thought, word, and deed. We must willingly co-operate. His Majesty said, “without Me you can do nothing” (Jn. 15:5). (v) God has promised a reward for the action. Our Lord said, “when you have done all that is commanded you, say, ‘We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty’” (Lk. 17:10). Yet, God, in His mercy and goodness, has promised to reward



From November 1 to November 8, the Missionaries of St. John the Baptist will offer the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass for the repose of the souls of our benefactors who have died, as well as for the deceased relatives and friends of our benefactors (to participate see reverse side).

us when we do what is good and virtuous. It is precisely because of His promises that we can truly merit.

To grow in holiness, to attain grace upon grace to do good, and ultimately to bypass Purgatory and arrive in Heaven we must merit! And we do this not only for ourselves but even for others, including those poor souls suffering below in Purgatory. No wonder why St. Augustine says, “God made us without us, but He will not save us without us.” ☩

Our Guardian Angels

"And when our soul has left the dwelling place of the body and stands before the awesome tribunal of divine judgment, our guardian angel will stand by its side as a faithful and effective advocate. And if it is necessary that the soul should expiate certain sins and be purified of vices in Purgatory for a time after death, even there its guardian angel shall be its companion. It shall provide much-needed consolation and fortitude and inform the departed soul of all the prayers which are said for its attainment of eternal rest by those who remain on earth. Most importantly, it shall remind the soul undergoing purgation and purification of the encouraging truth that now that it has entered Purgatory, it is absolutely certain to reach Heaven in due course." — *Meditations on the Holy Angels* by St. Aloysius Gonzaga.



Please keep praying that our case will be accepted by the Supreme Court of the United States. First Liberty has completed and submitted all the necessary briefs and court documents. We are now patiently waiting to hear from the highest court in the land. If anything is determined or announced (expected in the month of October if not sooner), we will place it on our website www.msjb.org. Thank you for your continued support in our efforts to build something beautiful to honor Our Lady.



HAVE PITY!

YOU AT LEAST, MY FRIENDS...

HEAR your loved ones softly pleading,
From the green graves lonesome lying,
Ever crying:

"Have pity!

You at least, my friends. . ."

WHILE the hot skies far are glowing,
Think of pain no relief knowing,
Their prison fires appalling
Their piteous voices calling:

"Have pity!

You at least, my friends. . ."

IN the time of sad remembrance,
Give a prayer to old friends gone,
Let your heart with mournful greeting,
Hear their sad appeal repeating:

"Have pity!

You at least, my friends. . ."

By the love in life you bore them,
By the tears in death shed o'er them,
By their words and looks in dying,
Hear their plaintive voices crying:
"Have pity!

INDULGENCE

An indulgence, applicable only to the Souls in Purgatory, is granted to the faithful, who devoutly visit a cemetery and pray, even if only mentally, for the departed. The indulgence offered is plenary each day from the 1st to the 8th of November; on other days of the year it is partial.

If you would like to have the names of your beloved deceased included in this octave of Masses, please write them down (index card provided) and send them to us to be placed on the Altar of Sacrifice here at our religious house.

All donations are used to help us continue to build up the Body of Christ, (checks payable to the Missionaries of St. John the Baptist or just MSJB).

May God reward you!

The Missionaries of Saint John the Baptist (www.msjb.org)