



Holy Souls Sodality

For Heaven's Sake

www.PrayForSouls.org

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 1 † FEBRUARY 2010

Dear Charter Members of the Holy Souls Sodality,

Thank you for being a charter member of the new Holy Souls Sodality!

In this first issue of your newsletter, I thought I would share with you why we Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception have launched the Sodality. It is in thanksgiving for the beatification in 2007 of our Father Founder, Blessed Stanislaus Papczynski, who called the Marian Fathers and Brothers to offer our lives for the Holy Souls in Purgatory, especially the victims of war and disease. In fact, Pope Benedict XVI hailed Blessed Stanislaus as “an apostle of intercessory prayer for the dead” in a taped address at the beatification in Poland.



Daily Mass for the Holy Souls and the intentions of the Holy Souls Sodality members began on October 5, 2009 – St. Faustina's Feast Day.

in our call to remember them at daily Mass, in prayer, and through personal sacrifices and devotional practices. Such opportunities will be presented to you in issues of this newsletter and at the website www.prayforsouls.org.

Together, we can restore a sense of the eternal perspective on human life, which is sorely lacking in our fast-paced, secularized society. As our Superior General, the Very Rev. Fr. Jan Rokosz, MIC, remarked after our Founder's beatification, “One of the most significant problems of our times is the loss of a sense of human dying, which is a result of the loss of a sense of life. Dying without God is terrifying. Blessed Stanislaus teaches us to live with our attention on dying as the point of our ultimate meeting with God, the point at which we will enter the fullness of eternal life.”

Along with Blessed Stanislaus, we will share with you stories of other blessed and saints who had a special devotion to the Holy Souls, especially St. Maria Faustina Kowalska. (Let us know if a particular saint has inspired you in your devotion to the Holy Souls.) In the case of St. Faustina, our Savior designated her the “Secretary” and

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In his day, Blessed Stanislaus was known as a tireless apostle for the Holy Souls. A good example is the profound mystical experience of the souls suffering in purgatory that Father Founder had at a gathering with family and other guests. He told his fellow Marians after returning to

the monastery: “Pray, brethren, for the souls in purgatory, for they suffer unbearably.” He then locked himself in his monastic cell and spent three days praying for the Holy Souls.

Inspired by our Marian Founder to place a renewed focus on the Holy Souls, we are now inviting you to share

"Apostle" of His mercy. It's interesting that the Lord instructed her not only to remember the souls in purgatory but even to visit them:

The Lord said to me, **Enter into purgatory often, because they need you there.**

O my Jesus, I understand the meaning of these words which you are speaking to me, but first let me enter the treasury of Your mercy (*Diary of St. Faustina, 1738*).

I believe St. Faustina will be very pleased if we make her petition to "enter the treasury of [the Lord's] mercy" our own. Let us be mindful of the clear instruction in Sacred Scripture of praying for the Holy Souls: "It is a holy and

wholesome thing to pray for the dead, that they may be loosed from their sins" (2 Mac 12:46). Our Blessed Father Founder would say "Amen" to that, for he wrote:

The greatest manifestation of love is interceding with God for the release of the souls who find themselves in the flames of purgatory, or bringing them relief through devout alms, or helping them by various other means (*Mystical Temple of God, p. 193*).

So, once again, thank you for joining with the Marian Fathers and your fellow Sodality members to help the Holy Souls. Please consider some recommendations for the month of February (see box below).

Let us close by praying together:

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Sincerely in The Divine Mercy and Mary Immaculate,

Fr. Joseph, MIC

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P.S. If you have additional intentions you would like us to remember or have something else to share, please call 1-800-671-2020 or e-mail holsouls@marian.org.

Help Souls To Heaven

- Participate in daily Mass as often as you can.
- Pray for the vast numbers of victims of unrelenting wars, diseases, and calamities of nature. As we continue to hear the news reports from Haiti in the aftermath of the Jan. 12 earthquake there, let's remember in particular all those who have died. According to recent estimates, they number 200,000 or more souls.
- You may want to use the Marian Fathers' "Purgatory Board" to pray for a different group of departed souls each day. (The particular groups of souls designated for each day are listed on the homepage of www.prayforsouls.org). There are 50 different categories of departed souls in all, and we Marians post in our houses one category of souls to be remembered each day — going through all 50 on a rotating basis. The different groups of departed souls include parents, benefactors, popes, bishops, priests, and leaders of nations, and those who are forgotten or neglected.



Sodality Member Oscar Delgado says the Prayer of St. Gertrude the Great every day.

He says, "Just imagine the power of this prayer. 1,000 souls are released from purgatory each time you say it. Those souls are your friends."

ST. GERTRUDE PRAYER

Eternal Father, I offer You the most Precious Blood of Your Divine Son, Jesus, in union with the Masses said throughout the world today, for all the Holy Souls in Purgatory, for sinners everywhere, for sinners in the Universal Church, those in my own home, and within my family. Amen.