



Holy Souls
Sodality

www.PrayForSouls.org

For Heaven's Sake

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Dear Members,

This month I have been chatting with a number of people who have recently joined the Holy Souls Sodality to find out why they wanted to join and what joining has meant to them.

Mary Barry told me she has always thought about the Holy Souls and purgatory.

"I have always prayed for friends and family," Mary said. "We were taught more about the Holy Souls in Catholic school when I was growing up."

Mary also told me about what led her to the Sodality.

"When I saw it in [the Summer issue of] *Marian Helper* magazine, I was immediately attracted to it. It's the first time I've seen information about a sodality anywhere."

She added that she thinks it's important to provide more information about the Holy Souls for today's youth.

"A lot of young people don't believe in purgatory. I don't think Catholic schools share enough about purgatory with kids today."

She says she told her children when they were growing up that it was important to remember purgatory because "if you get to purgatory, you are on your way to heaven."

Michael Gilbride wrote to me to tell me about his love for the Holy Souls.

"I try to remember all the souls I know who have entered eternal life. I



Theresa and Romeo DiGuida are pictured in February, 2006. Romeo passed away this past February, and Theresa is comforted to know that the Marians and her fellow sodality members will help her pray for him.

try to pray for a list of Holy Souls, especially in November. Each soul is special to me for some reason.

"I'm very happy there is a Holy Souls Sodality and that the Marian Fathers have as a charism praying for the Holy Souls."

Barbara Schumacher also wrote to tell me how she learned of the Sodality.

"I have been praying for the Holy Souls for about 30 years, but I didn't know about the Sodality until I read about it in *Marian Helper* magazine.

Her favorite place to pray for souls is at the cemetery. Besides her favorite

prayer, she says the Rosary and The Divine Mercy Chaplet and sprinkles holy water upon the graves.

One aspect of the Sodality that I most enjoy is the fact that it gives consolation to those who have recently lost loved ones.

I spent some time on the phone with Theresa DiGuida, who is filled with sorrow and having a very hard time since her husband, Romeo, passed away in February.

She says she is comforted by the thought of all the Sodality members

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praying and the Masses that are being said by the Marians for him.

"I just want everyone to pray for my husband, Romeo," Theresa said.

She prays the Rosary and says The Divine Mercy Chaplet every day and has been sending requests for Masses to be said to the National Shrine for years, but she's hoping other sodality members will unite with her in saying prayers for her late husband.

Katherine Comiskey is also going through some tough times.

"My whole family has passed on. The only one left is my father. He's 94 and in ill health," Katherine said. "I just noticed the Holy Souls Sodality, and I thought it was [a good opportunity] for Masses to be said for my loved ones."

Lena O'Malley is very excited about the Holy Souls Sodality.

"I have always prayed for the Holy Souls, and I read about the Sodality in

Marian Helper magazine," Lena said.

"My husband died years ago and so have my three sisters, so I have Masses said for them.

"I joined the Sodality, and now I have prayers said for a couple priests I know that have recently died and also for family."

She also shared how she takes time each day on her walks to pray for the Holy Souls.

"I walk every day, and when I pass by a cemetery, I pray for the souls in that cemetery. I have a lot of different prayers that I say, and I've been saying them so long that I know them by heart. I do say a prayer from Blessed Stanislaus Papczynski.

Lucy St. Michael is also very passionate about the Holy Souls.

She called to tell me about how, as she's gotten older, her desire to pray for the Holy Souls has gotten stronger.

"It's very interesting and very unexpected that I have become so passionate about the Holy Souls. I read books about it but didn't really have the interest I have now.

"I discovered the Chaplet of Divine Mercy about 10 years ago, but it wasn't like it is now where I have a total of five Masses said for the Holy Souls and pray for the Holy Souls each time I'm in front of the Blessed Sacrament. I also pray a novena for the Holy Souls."

If you would like to tell me your story about what you like about the Sodality and why you joined, please feel free to call 800-671-2020 or write me at P.O. Box 716, Stockbridge, Mass., 01262.

Sincerely in The Divine Mercy and Mary Immaculate,

Fr. Joseph, MIC

Fr. Joseph, MIC

Tips for July

Teach

Take time this summer to teach your children or grandchildren about the importance of praying for the Holy Souls. Make it relevant to them by sharing stories and photos of your departed loved ones and perhaps visiting a cemetery with them.

Remember

Focus on remembering in a special way all of our soldiers who have lost their lives serving our country in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Take time

When you go on a walk or hike this summer, use the time to pray for the Holy Souls. If you go with family and friends, invite them to join you in prayer.

How I help the Holy Souls



The Very Rev. Fr. Dan Cambra, the Marians Provincial Superior for North America, has now added spiritual director of the Holy Souls Sodality to his list of duties. He says that it's a natural fit for him.

"When I first made a retreat with the Marians, one of the things that struck me was the charism of praying for the Holy Souls," Fr. Dan said. "This was back in the early 1980s and at that particular point in time, nobody was talking about purgatory and praying for the

Holy Souls. But the Marians had daily prayers for the Holy Souls. I found out that it was part of the spirituality of Father Founder, Blessed Stanislaus Papczynski, to pray for the souls in purgatory, especially those for whom no one ever prayed. I was raised in a family that was profoundly oriented to pray for the Holy Souls. It was especially part of my great grandmother's spirituality. When I would wake up at night as a young child, she would encourage me to pray for the Holy Souls. So I've been praying for those in purgatory since I was about 5 or 6 years old. And when I encountered that in the Marians, it really struck me rather strongly.

"My hope for this sodality is that each of us would grow more devout in our daily prayers and sacrifices for the Holy Souls in Purgatory."

