

Opening Instruction
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The Holy Father must do this and Bishops and Religious Superiors be placed
under the most severe injunction to see that this is done. THERE IS NO OTHER
WAY. With all respect, at this twenty-fourth hour it is not experts who are
needed to rescue the Church from disaster. What is needed is courage. UNDER
GOD, NO MORE AND NO LESS THAN THAT.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK:

SUNDAY: 6:00 A.M. For Prayer Promises and Benefactors
9:30 A.M. For the People of the Chapels
12:30 P.M. Dec. Elizabeth Grabber
MONDAY: Dec. Sophia Gac
TUESDAY: Dec. Ferdinand Nordman
WEDNESDAY: Dec. Father Andrew Capesius, O.S.B.
THURSDAY: Dec. Lena Tortomasi
FRIDAY: Dec. Nicholas Rath
SATURDAY: Dec. Emma Boike

PROOF OF THE EXISTENCE OF PURGATORY.

(In this our day, it has become necessary
to say this about Purgatory:

For those who believe, no argument is
necessary.

For those who refuse to believe, no
argument is possible.)

Reason dictates that there must be a state of purgation. Nothing defiled
can enter heaven, so there must be a state or place where the souls of those
free from mortal sin but not free from venial sin or temporal punishment may
make some sort of satisfaction.

Holy Scripture, in the last book of the Old Testament, records the story
of Judas Machabeus who sent twelve thousand drachmas of silver to the Temple of
Jerusalem for sacrifice to be offered for the slain, saying, "It is therefore a
holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead, that they may be loosed from
sins." (2 Mach. 12, 43-46) These words imply that there is a middle state where
souls are detained, and where they may benefit from prayers said for them by
the living. The Council of Trent defines these two points: "That there is a
purgatory: and that the souls there detained are helped by the suffrages of the
faithful, but that they are especially helped by the acceptable and holy Sacrifice
of the Mass at the Altar." (Session 25, Chapter 6, Canon 30)

What is the nature of the punishment in purgatory? Theologians have taught
that the souls in purgatory satisfy the justice of God by undergoing the pain of
loss and the pain of sense. But the pain of loss in purgatory differs from the
pain of loss suffered in hell because it is not eternal and is assuaged by HOPE,
whereas in hell there is only DESPAIR. The soul will certainly go to heaven,
sooner or later, but while restrained in purgatory it suffers an intense yearning
to see God. The pain of sense is said to be caused by fire, and the text "He
himself shall be saved, yet so as by fire" has been interpreted by some to mean a
material fire of purgatory.

Since the faithful on earth can help the souls in purgatory by their prayers,
both charity and prudence urge that we assist our brethren of the Church Suffering
Holy Mother Church, therefore, because she loves her suffering members, asks the
faithful on earth to be especially mindful of those good souls who have preceded
them into eternity.