

A loved one is dying



Praying with Montligeon

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Recommend
your loved ones to
the Fraternity of
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The shrine of
Our Lady of Montligeon

World centre of prayer
for the deceased

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Shrine of Christian Hope

No more alternative:

my father, my mother, a friend of mine, someone I love is about to pass away. I yearn to go and be at his/her side.

Present restrictions due to the pandemic add to the painful perspective of his/her imminent death, and to the torture of being unable to get to him/her before he/she departs.

How do I long to hold his/her hand, exchange loving words, and extend or receive forgiveness. I am being denied all of these basic caring gestures.

Yet, in such a painful circumstance, I can nevertheless offer my grief, my prayers, and my keeping watch for the one who is about to remit his/her life into the hands of God.

In faith, I remain confident that I can still do something for him/her, and that my prayers will truly bear fruit.

Scripture reading:

Luke 22, 39-46

I could reflect on this excerpt of the scripture whereby Jesus goes to the Mount of Olives, and asks Peter, James and John to keep watch with him. This episode is known as the "agony".

Jesus' agony does not merely mean the slow descent towards death, it embraces the struggle that precedes his passing away, and the positive response he gave to impending death. Peter, James and John remained somewhat away from him; today I too am in a similar position somehow.

Together with the three disciples, I am invited to keep watch so that the one I love gives his/her consent to the Lord who is coming and receiving him/her.

Then going out he went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him. When he arrived at the place he said to them, "Pray that you may not undergo the test." After withdrawing about a stone's throw from them and kneeling, he prayed, saying, "Father, if you are willing, take this cup away from me; still, not my will but yours be done." (And to strengthen him an angel from heaven appeared to him. He was in such agony and he prayed so fervently that his sweat became like drops of blood falling on the ground.)

When he rose from prayer and returned to his disciples, he found them sleeping from grief. He said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not undergo the test."

The Rosary

I can pray a decade,
meditating on the first
sorrowful mystery, that is
the agony of our Lord in
the garden of Olives.

At the end of each "Hail
Mary" I could stress and
reflect on the last sentence.
"Pray for us, sinners, now
and at the end of our death."

Supplication

Saints of God, come to
his/her aid!
Come to meet him/her,
Angels of the Lord!
Receive his/her soul and
present him/her to God the
Most High.
May Christ, who called you,
take you to himself;
may Angels lead you to
Abraham's side. Give him/her
eternal rest, O Lord,
and may your light shine on
him/her forever.

**Our Lady of Montligeon,
pray for N.*
And for the souls in
purgatory.**

* Replace "N" by the name of your loved one.

To pray further

For some, dying will be swift and violent.

For others, it will expand and take time.

Here are a few prayers to support ones' faith and hope, and to sustain, in an invisible but tangible way, the one who is about to leave for the Father's abode.

Psalm 129

Notorious under its first words in Latin, De Profundis, this regularly set to music psalm is not so much a canticle of lament but a demonstration of trust in God the Saviour.

*Out of the depths
I cry to you, O Lord!
O Lord, hear my voice!*

*Let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my prayer!
If you, O Lord, should mark
iniquities,
O Lord, who could stand?*

*But with you there
is forgiveness,
that you may be feared.*

*I wait for the Lord, my soul
waits,
and in his word I hope;*

*my soul waits for the Lord
more than watchmen
for the morning.
More than watchmen for the
morning,
More than watchmen for the
morning,
O Israel, hope in the Lord!
For with the Lord there is
steadfast love,
and with him is plentiful
redemption.
And he will redeem Israel
from all his iniquities.*

The Canticle of Simeon Luke 2,29-32

The Evangelist Luke tells how Jesus, forty days after birth, Mary and Joseph brought him to the Temple so as to present him to God. In Jerusalem lived a man named Simeon.

The Holy Spirit had made it known to him that he would not die before he saw the Christ, the Messiah of the Lord. At the Temple, he took the Infant in his arms and praised God.

Every day, monks, nuns, priests and even lay people pray his prayer at Compline before going to bed. We may transpose Simeon's prayer and say it on behalf of the dying person.

Obviously, he/she did not meet Christ in person, but in faith, I can remain convinced that he/she encountered Christ, one way or the other.

Now dismiss Thy servant, O Lord, in peace, according to Thy word. For mine own eyes hath seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast Prepared in the sight of all the peoples, a light to reveal Thee to the nations and the glory of Thy people Israel.

The Credo or The Apostles Creed

The Credo prayer – it takes its name from its first words in Latin – summarizes Christian faith.

The Apostles Creed and the Nicene Creed hold an exceptional place in the Church.

Although the apostles did not compile the Apostles Creed as such, it nevertheless truly epitomises their faith.

Faith in the Resurrection is at the very core of the Credo

*I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and earth;
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son Our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into Hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into Heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting.*

Amen.

Prayer of Saint Ambrose

Saint Ambrose was the Archbishop of Milan in the fourth century. In one of his numerous theology volumes, he left this prayer, which reminds us that aid comes from Christ, our all.

*Lord Jesus Christ,
You are my strength when I
need help;
You are life itself when I fear
death;
You are the way when I long
for heaven;
You are light when all is dark;
You are my food when I need
nourishment.*

*The Lord is good;
Blessed is the one who
takes refuge in him.*

Death of St. Teresa of Lisieux

The "Last conversations" of St. Teresa of Lisieux relate the 24 year old Carmelite's ultimate months; five months of pain and agonising transmuted by her infinite and yet, ever so simple, hope. In the following excerpt, Teresa's conviction is made clear: after her death, she was to remain ever closer to the people whom she knew and loved.

*The Reverend Father told me:
"You need to much
sacrifice and leave your
Sisters."
"But Father," I answered, "I
believe I won't leave them; on
the contrary, I shall remain
ever closer to them, after my
death."*

Recommend Your loved ones to the Fraternity of Montligeon

Perpetual Mass

People enrolled in the Fraternity of Montligeon, whether they are deceased or living, benefit from the Perpetual Mass daily celebrated to their intention.

A spiritual Fraternity

People enrolled in the Fraternity of Montligeon benefit from all the prayers said at the shrine and its associate groups.

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Prayer to Our Lady of Montligeon

Our Lady of Deliverance,
Have compassion on all our departed,
Especially those who are most in need of
the Lord's mercy.

Intercede for all those who have gone before us
And may the purifying love of God lead them
to full deliverance.
May our prayer, united with the prayer of
the whole Church,
Obtain for them joy beyond all their desires,
And bring consolation and relief to our loved ones
in their suffering and distress.

Mother of the Church, help us, pilgrims on earth,
to be better in living each day of our journey
towards the Resurrection.
Heal the wounds of heart and soul.
Hep us to become of the Unseen God,
Seeking already what the eye cannot see.
Grant us the grace to become apostles of hope
like those who keep vigil awaiting the dawn.
Refuge of sinners and Queen of all Saints,
Gather us all together one day,
in our Father's House,
For the eternal Easter,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
In the unity of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Our Lady of Montligeon,
Pray for the souls in Purgatory.

