

*"It is therefore a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead, that they may be loosed from sins." 2
Machabees 12:46*

At Fatima, Our Lady shockingly confirmed the rigorous and just judgment we all must undergo at the moment of death. Little Lucia asked Our Lady about two local girls who had recently died. Our Lady replied that one of them, Maria das Neves, was in Heaven, but that the other, Amelia, would be in Purgatory until the end of the world. Lucia must have heard this latter revelation with mixed feelings. Through Amelia had died in circumstances involving "an irremediable dishonor in the matter of chastity," she would nevertheless attain Heaven. Before doing so, however, she would have to endure the unimaginable pains and sufferings of Purgatory until the end of time!

For the rest of her life, Lucia undoubtedly remembered Amelia's plight. She must have offered many prayers, sacrifices, fasting's, penances, vigils, and communions for her. By these efficacious means, Lucia undoubtedly gained substantial relief for her friend. What about us? While we do not know the fate of our deceased loved ones, we can be morally certain that they, and others need our suffrages. How do we respond to the silent pleas of those called before us into the next world?

Our deceased loved ones need us now more than they ever did in life!

How pure a soul must be to see God, and how long this purification takes! While the souls in Purgatory are in the state of grace and will never sin again, they are unable to help themselves. Their prayers are no longer able to produce any increase in merit, or to yield any satisfaction for sin. The souls in Purgatory atone for their sins and are purified from their attachment to sin only by means of their terrible sufferings, which they will have to endure until the "last penny" is paid (Matthew 5:26)-*unless we make reparation for them.*

Our Lord has given us the power to free our loved ones from Purgatory!

We can earn an indulgence for a poor soul in Purgatory on any day of the year simply by praying:

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

On the Feast of All Souls (November 2) Holy Mother Church especially encourages us to offer prayers and alms for the relief of the souls in Purgatory. On that day, we should visit a church and devoutly pray the Apostle Creed and the Our Father to gain an indulgence for a poor soul. Throughout the octave of All Saints Day (November 1-8), we can also gain indulgences for the Poor Souls by merely visiting a cemetery and praying for the faithful departed. This year, why not resolve to gain as many indulgences as possible for the souls in Purgatory by praying for them at a cemetery *all eight days* of this privileged octave of grace?

We want to help your loved ones who are suffering NOW in Purgatory

At Fatima, Our Lady told us that only by the intervention of her Immaculate Heart will we be delivered from the dire punishments of God now falling so heavily upon us. To attain this intervention, we must pray our daily Rosary and make monthly acts of reparation to her Immaculate Heart on the First Saturdays.