

Prayers of Love

FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED



FRANCISCAN
MISSION ASSOCIATES

The custom of praying for and honoring the dead is as old as the Church. In fact, the Second Book of Maccabees in the Old Testament says that it is a noble practice to pray and offer sacrifices for the dead.

Praying for those who have gone before us can also remind us of the fact that we are still connected to them. Our belief in the Communion of Saints means that those in heaven, those in Purgatory and those here on earth all form the one Body of Christ, with the Lord Himself as the Head. Our prayers assist those who are still being purified and await the joy of seeing God face to face.

We at Franciscan Mission Associates wish to offer you this booklet as a guide that can be used for All Souls' Day and throughout the year. We pray that you will use it often to intercede for your loved ones and others who need our prayers.

May it also comfort you to know that our friars are joined with you in spirit and will be praying for your loved ones.

Franciscan Friars

HELPING THE HOLY SOULS

When we pass from this world, we hope to see Our Lord face to face. Most of us, however, will need some purification of our souls before we are sufficiently perfected to do that. That is the purpose of Purgatory. Those in Purgatory, however, cannot do anything to aid themselves in their journey. They rely on the prayers and sacrifices of those who are still here on earth. During November, known as the Month of the Holy Souls, we focus in a special way on offering prayers, Masses and charitable works for those who await the Kingdom.

Pope Francis very rightly said that the true divide is not between the living and the dead, but between those who are in Christ and those who are not. Our prayers and sacrifices, therefore, make a tremendous difference to those who have passed from this world. They hasten the purification of the Holy Souls and their journey to the Lord.

It is possible for us, therefore, to strengthen the deep communion between the Church in heaven and those still journeying on earth.

TO BE SAID AFTER EACH PRAYER

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. Amen.

PRAYER OF LOVE FOR THE DEPARTED

Through His passion, death and resurrection, Jesus has conquered all things, even death. It is only His supreme, unselfish love that has the power to unite the faithful, both living and deceased.

Heavenly Father, I ask You to allow my heart to overflow with Christian love for those who have passed from this world. Grant, in the Name of Jesus, that I may rejoice for them despite the sorrow I feel. May I be confident that they are in a better place, beyond the pain and chaos of this world.

My faith assures me that death is not an end, but a new beginning which opens the door to full union with Christ. May my prayers help to facilitate this blessed union for my dear ones for all of eternity. Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PRAYER FOR A DECEASED SPOUSE

Dear Lord,

Hear my prayer for my dear life partner *[Name]*, to whom I was joined in marriage. Give assurance to my restless heart that the bonds we share will never be broken, and that our union in Christ transcends this earthly realm.

I ask that, in Your mercy, You would watch over him (her) with kindness. Forgive any sins he (she) may have committed in this life and take my beloved into Your loving arms. I pray that we will one day be reunited in Your Kingdom. I ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PRAYER FOR DECEASED PARENTS

Heavenly Father, You command that we honor our father and mother, even after death. With filial love, I offer this heartfelt prayer for the safe passage of my parent(s) to heaven.

I humbly ask You to watch over them with Your merciful care. Forgive any sins that they might have committed in this life and welcome them into full communion with all the faithful in Christ. Grant that one day I may see them again in the radiance of Your eternal joy. I pray in the Holy Name of Jesus.

Amen.

PRAYER FOR A DECEASED SON OR DAUGHTER

O Loving Father, the pain that comes from the loss of my precious child can only be endured by relying on Your grace. You gave Your only Son, and the Blessed Mother watched Him die. However, You both also knew that it was part of Your Divine Plan.

Help me, Lord, to persevere in my grief and to know that my little one is safe in Your loving hands. Give me and those I love comfort as we mourn the passing and celebrate the life of this precious child. I ask this in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

PRAYER FOR DECEASED GRANDPARENTS

Gracious God, You bless each of us with a human family. I am thankful for the parents who have raised me, but also for the grandparents who raised them. They have passed on the gifts of love and faith which I now enjoy. Whether I was privileged to know them or not, they are part of my history and of my faith journey.

I humbly ask You, Father, that my (*grandmother / grandfather / grandparents*), who have passed from this world, may be granted a place in Your heavenly home. As they guided their family here on earth, make them fully part of Your family in heaven. Grant me and those I love comfort as we mourn their absence, forgive any remnants of sin that might cling to them, and grant that I may be reunited with them one day, living forever in Your Kingdom. I ask this in the Mighty Name of Jesus.

Amen.

PRAYER FOR DECEASED RELATIVES AND FRIENDS

Heavenly Father, we know that death is an inevitable part of life. Our physical separation, however, does not cut us off from one another. I ask You, Lord, to gather my friends and family who have passed from this earth unto Yourself. I thank You for the blessing of having known them and loved them in this life.

You have taught us that it is Your Will that we pray for those who have gone before us. In Your mercy, pardon their sins and faults, and welcome them into Your eternal Kingdom. It is my fervent hope that I will one day be joyfully reunited with them in Your presence. I humbly ask this in the Name of Jesus the Lord.

Amen.

PRAYER FOR A DECEASED POPE

Almighty Father, You have provided Your Church with spiritual leaders to guide us and sustain us. May Your devoted servant *[Name]*, whom You chose as Pope, the successor of St. Peter and shepherd of Your Church, be joined now to You forever. May his faithful service of administering the mysteries of forgiveness and love here on earth be rewarded with the eternal life You promise. May the leadership he provided continue to guide us on our earthly journey and bring us at last to Your heavenly Kingdom. I ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PRAYER FOR DECEASED MEN AND WOMEN RELIGIOUS

Lord, You call some men and women to serve You in a special way as religious sisters and brothers. You ask that they sacrifice the goods and relationships of this world to make Your love present here and now. This call included Your faithful servant *[Name]*. Through his (her) efforts, many came to know You, overcoming the darkness of doubt and sin and experiencing the light of Your love. I offer You my deepest gratitude for this blessed soul, and I pray that he (she) may be rewarded with the fruits of eternal life in heaven. I ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PRAYER FOR DECEASED SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN

Almighty God, Jesus told us that there is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends. I thank You, Lord, for the men and women who bravely put themselves in harm's way to protect our way of life. I pray, Lord, for those who have made the ultimate sacrifice and given their lives for their country. They demonstrated selfless love and heroic spirit. Accept their sacrifice as an offering and take them to heaven. Comfort also those who loved them in this life and are now left behind.

With gratitude for their service, I ask that their sacrifice not be in vain. Forgive any sins they may have committed and receive them into the arms of Your mercy. And make me grateful for the life I am blessed with because of their sacrifice.

In life they devoted themselves to protecting the safety and freedom of others. In death, may they be granted safe passage to heaven. Having given their lives in conflict, may they now know only peace. I ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PRAYER FOR THE DECEASED ONES WHO ARE FORGOTTEN

Dear Lord, there are many people who endured loneliness, war, poverty and natural disaster, and who departed this life without loved ones to mourn them or pray for them. I offer my prayer for these dear souls. Though I did not know them personally, we are brothers and sisters in the human family, and my heart is moved by their plight in life and in death.

Stretch forth Your fatherly arms to these forgotten ones, Lord, and bring them into the heavenly abode of happiness, light and peace forever and ever.

Amen.

PRAYER FOR THE DECEASED WHO DIDN'T KNOW GOD

Dear Father, You are the Creator of all. In our broken world, there are many who have died never knowing Your goodness and love, but who sought the Good with a sincere heart. I ask You, Loving God, to pardon the sins of these, Your children, and to open the gates of paradise to them.

May the love and peace that they sought on earth be granted them for all eternity and may those they leave behind come to know You as a Good and Loving Father. I ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PRAYER FOR ALL THE SOULS IN PURGATORY

Dear Lord, You provide those who have died with the opportunity to be purified and so be prepared to see You face to face. I pray for all those whose souls are being purged, O Father, that the remnants of sin may be wiped away from them and they may enter the eternal Kingdom.

Father, these souls cannot merit anything for themselves. May the prayers I offer aid them in their journey to You, especially those who may have no one else to pray for them. I ask this in the power of the Spirit, through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



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