



OUR LADY OF SORROWS

DEVOTION FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

Intention: For the Triumph of the Church, for Those Who are Sick and Suffering, and for All Our Personal Intentions.

For Holy Church

O MARY, MOTHER of the universal Church, who didst consent to remain in exile upon earth after the Ascension of Thy divine Son, and for long years to be deprived of His visible presence that Thou mightest be the guide, the mistress, and the loving Mother of the infant Church, do Thou, now as ever, extend upon Her Thy maternal care. Thou seest the persecutions to which She is exposed, the dangers of Her children, the tribulations of Her faithful pastors. Remember the last words of Thy dying Son, by which He gave Thee to us to be our Mother, and deign to protect us, the children of Thy sorrow, that none of us may be lost, but all may remain steadfast in the true faith and the practice of virtues. Mother most powerful, turn not Thy gaze from the plight of the Church, embroiled in turmoil and assailed from within and without. Let Thy sorrowful tears melt the hearts of those hardened in sin and error; may the sword of Thy sorrow guard Thy faithful

children from false shepherds and deadly snares. Let Thy maternal compassion extend also to those unfortunate children of Thine, to those nations which have denied thy Son and His Vicar and fallen into schism and heresy, that they may be brought back to the true Church, and lovingly submit to Peter, the Shepherd appointed by Christ. Have pity also on those children of Thine, still more unfortunate, who know not Thy Son, the light and life of the world; may Thy supplications and tears move the bowels of Divine Mercy, that He may enlighten them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death! Oh! may all Catholics, through Thy powerful intercession, remain faithful to their God and their Mother the Church! May all the stray sheep be brought back to the fold! may all heathens walk in the light of the new Jerusalem, that all may know, and love, and serve, and bless Thy divine Son for ever and ever! Amen.

For a Particular Grace

O MOST BLESSED and afflicted Virgin, Queen of Martyrs, who didst stand generously beneath the Cross, beholding the agony of Thy dying Son, by the sword of sorrow which then pierced Thy soul, by the continual sufferings of Thy sorrowful life, by the unutterable joy which now far more than repays Thee for them, look down with a mother's pity and tenderness, as I kneel before Thee to compassionate Thy sorrows, and to lay my petition with childlike confidence in Thy wounded heart. I beg of Thee, O my Mother, to plead continually for me with Thy Son, since He can refuse Thee nothing, and

through the merits of His most Sacred Passion and Death, together with Thy own sufferings at the foot of the cross, so to touch His Sacred Heart, that I may obtain my request. For to whom shall I fly in my wants and miseries, if not to Thee, O Mother of Mercy, who, having so deeply drunk the chalice of Thy Son, canst most pity us poor exiles, still doomed to sigh in the valley of tears? Offer to Jesus but one drop of His Precious Blood, but one pang of His Adorable Heart. Remind Him that Thou art our life, our sweetness, and our hope, and thou wilt obtain what I ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For Resignation in Tribulations

O MARY, QUEEN OF MARTYRS, Mother of God, and my most loving mother, humbly prostrate at Thy feet I dedicate myself to the compassion of Thy sorrowful heart, which was plunged into such an abyss of woe and humiliation, and at the same time was such a prodigy of meekness, of patience, of charity, and of all virtues. O beloved Mother, this sacrifice of Thy heart was offered to show me the inestimable price of humiliations, to teach me that I too must take up my cross and follow Thy Jesus in the way of suffering, which is the true way to heaven. Alas! until now I understood it not, and instead of following Jesus, I separated myself from Him, to run after honors and pleasures. Henceforward it shall not be so; I will follow Him, bearing whatever cross He may be pleased to send me; I will imitate Thee, the true model of invincible patience; I will accept tribulations with Jesus and Thee, to be united with Him crucified and with Thee, even more so

because my sins were the cause of Thy sufferings and His. But thou knowest my enemies never cease from attacking me and laying snares before me, to lead me astray from the royal way of the cross. Do Thou, therefore, O tender Mother, strengthen me, sustain me, and ever keep before me both Thy sufferings and the example of Thy fortitude. Obtain for me that I may ever have a lively faith, a firm hope, and an ardent charity, and that being comforted by the remembrance of Thy sorrows, I may willingly accept the chalice of my tribulations, thus faithfully and cheerfully to accompany Jesus in His sufferings. And in the great passage from time to eternity, do Thou assist me in a special manner; deign to come with Jesus to my aid; obtain for me that I may invoke Thine and His sweet name, saying with my lips and my heart, "Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, assist me in my last agony; Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, may I die with you in peace." Amen.

To Avert the Anger of God

O MOTHER OF SORROWS, who from Thy very infancy didst most ardently wish that the time of the redemption of mankind might be hastened, and who, when become the Mother of God, didst with admirable heroism offer for death Thy only Son and Thyself with Him that the reign of sin might be destroyed, look down, we entreat Thee, on this miserable world, and see how prevalent iniquity is everywhere, and how many unfortunate souls are bound with the chains of sin. The flood of infidelity, blasphemy, and immorality is rising daily, and seems as if it would submerge the whole world. How dreadful are the chastisements we may fear! How terrible the divine vengeance will be! How awful to bear the wrath with which Thy Jesus will be moved against those who insult and reject Him! O most blessed Virgin, have compassion on us, intercede for us; do not forsake Thy mission of reconciliation, but

show that Thou art still most anxious to save sinners. Stand in the sight of Thy divine Son to speak good for them, and to turn away His indignation from them. Remind Him that for them He Himself shed His most Precious Blood to the last drop, and ended His life in the most excruciating torments; remind Him of the anguish, the desolation, the agony of Thine Immaculate Heart. Will He resist Thy prayers, Thy supplications, Thy sighs? No! He will be moved to mercy, and in the excess of His love will pour down the abundance of His graces to soften the hearts of hardened sinners. Then, filled with sorrow, will they shed tears of compunction and return to their Lord; then iniquity will cease, faith, and religion, and purity will flourish again, and a canticle of praise to the God of mercies, and of gratitude to Thee, our most loving Mother, will be raised from all parts of the earth. Amen.