

Catholic Church. Liturgy & ritual.

A

# MANUAL OF PRAYERS

FOR THE USE OF

THE CATHOLIC LAITY.

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## Devotions for the Sick.

### RULES FOR A SICK PERSON.



RECEIVE your sickness from the hands of your heavenly Father dealing with you as with a child.

2. Look on it as a loving correction for your sins, and as a summons to prepare more carefully for death.

3. Practise the virtues of patience and submission to the will of God; deepen your repentance and offer yourself to God to suffer, if it pleases Him, still greater pains; give thanks for the blessings you enjoy.

4. In any dangerous illness let your first care be to send for a Priest.

5. Engage your friends to give you timely notice if your illness be dangerous, and not to flatter you with false hopes of recovery.

6. Make the best use of the time you have; admit but few visitors; let your conversation be as little as may be of worldly matters.

7. Settle your temporal affairs, in order to give yourself more entirely to spiritual matters.

8. Meditate often on our Lord's Passion.

9. Bear in mind St. Augustine's words: *However innocent your life may have been, no Christian ought to venture to die in any other state than that of a penitent.*

### PRAYER IN THE BEGINNING OF SICKNESS.

O HEAVENLY Father, who in Thy wisdom knowest what is best for me, glory be to Thee. Lord,

if it seem good in Thy sight, remove from me this sickness which I now feel seizing upon me, that I may employ my health to Thy glory, and praise Thy name. But if Thou art pleased it should grow on me, I willingly submit to Thy afflicting hand, for Thou art wont to chasten those whom Thou dost love, and Thou hast promised not to lay on me any more than Thou wilt enable me to bear. I know, O my God, that Thou sendest this sickness on me for my good, even to humble and to prove me ; O grant that it may not fail to work that saving effect in me. O Lord, create in me a true sorrow for all my past sins, a firm faith in Thee, and sincere resolutions of amendment for the time to come. Deliver me from all fretfulness and impatience, and give me an entire resignation to Thy divine will : O suffer not my sickness to take away my senses, and do Thou continually supply my thoughts with holy ejaculations. Lord, bless all the means that are used for my recovery, and restore me to my health, if it be Thy will, in Thy good time ; but if Thou hast appointed otherwise for me, Thy blessed will be done. O wean my affections from all things of earth, and fill me with ardent desires after heaven : Lord, fit me for Thyself, and then call me, when Thou pleasest, to that joy unspeakable and full of glory ; for the sake of Thine Only Son, Jesus Christ, my Lord and Saviour. *Amen.*

A DAILY PRAYER.

**O** ALMIGHTY God, behold I receive this sickness, with which Thou art pleased to visit me, as coming from Thy Fatherly hand. It is Thy will that it should be thus with me. Thy will be done in earth, as

it is in heaven. May this sickness be to the honor of Thy holy name and for the good of my soul. For these ends I here offer myself to Thee with entire submission ; to suffer what Thou pleasest, as long as Thou pleasest, and in what manner Thou pleasest : for I am Thy creature and Thy child, who have most ungratefully offended Thee. I have truly deserved Thy chastisement, and far more than Thou layest on me, but, O Lord, rebuke me not in Thine indignation, neither chasten me in Thy sore displeasure. Look upon my weakness, and be merciful unto me, for Thou knowest whereof I am made, Thou rememberest that I am but dust ; deal not with me therefore after my sins, nor reward me according to mine iniquities ; but according to the multitude of Thy tender mercies have compassion upon me. Assist me, I pray Thee, with Thy heavenly grace, and give me strength, that I may be able to bear with Christian patience all the pains, uneasiness, and trials of my sickness. Preserve me from all temptations so far as Thou seest fit, and be Thou my defence against all the assaults of the enemy, that I may in no wise offend Thee ; and if it be Thy will that this sickness should be my last, I beg of Thee so to direct me by Thy grace that I may in no way neglect or be deprived of those Sacraments which Thou hast ordained for the good of my soul, to prepare it for its passage into eternity ; so that, being cleansed from all my sins, I may put my whole trust in Thee, and love Thee above all things ; and that finally, through the merits of the Passion and Death of Thy Son, I may be admitted into the company of the Blessed, there to praise Thee for ever, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Amen.*

## ACTS OF MOST NECESSARY VIRTUES FOR THE SICK.

*Act of Resignation.*

**L**ORD, I accept this sickness from Thy Fatherly hands ; I entirely resign myself to Thy blessed will, whether it be for life or death. Not my will, but Thine be done ; Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

*Act of Submission.*

**L**ORD, I submit to all the pains and uneasiness of this my illness : my sins have deserved infinitely more. Thou art just, O Lord, and Thy judgment is right.

*Act of Self-Oblation.*

**L**ORD, I offer up to Thee all that I now suffer, or may have to suffer, to be united to the sufferings of my Saviour, and to be sanctified by His Passion.

*Act of Adoration.*

**I** ADORE Thee, O my God and my All, as my First Beginning and my Last End ; I desire to pay Thee the best homage that I am able, and to bow down all the powers of my soul to Thee.

*Act of Praise.*

**L**ORD, I desire to praise Thee for ever, in sickness as well as in health ; I desire to join my heart and voice with the whole Church of heaven and earth, in blessing Thee for ever.

*Act of Thanksgiving.*

**I** GIVE Thee thanks, O Lord, from the bottom of my heart, for all the mercies and blessings which

Thou hast bestowed upon me and on Thy whole Church through Jesus Christ Thy Son ; above all, because Thou hast loved me from all eternity, and hast sent Thy Son to redeem me with His precious Blood. O let not that Blood be shed for me in vain.

*Act of Faith.*

**L**ORD, I believe all those heavenly truths which Thou hast revealed, and which Thy Holy Catholic Church believes and teaches. Thou art the Sovereign Truth, who neither canst deceive nor be deceived. Thou hast promised Thy Spirit of Truth to guide Thy Church into all truth. In this Faith I resolve, through Thy grace, both to live and die. O Lord, strengthen and increase this my faith.

*Act of Hope.*

**O** MY God, all my hope is in Thee ! Through Jesus Christ, my Redeemer, through His Passion and Death, I hope for mercy, grace, and salvation from Thee. In Thee, O Lord, have I put my trust : let me never be confounded. O Sweet Jesus, receive me into Thine arms in this day of my distress ; hide me in Thy Wounds, bathe my soul in Thy precious Blood.

*Act of Love.*

**I** LOVE Thee, O my God, with my whole heart and soul, above all things : at least I desire so to love Thee. O come now and take full possession of my soul, and teach me to love Thee for ever. I desire to depart, and to be with Christ. O when will Thy kingdom come ? O Lord, when wilt Thou perfectly reign in all hearts ? When shall sin be no more ?

*Act of Love of One's Neighbor.*

I DESIRE to love my neighbor with perfect charity for the love of Thee. I forgive from my heart all who have in any way offended or injured me, and I ask pardon of all whom I have in any way offended or injured.

*Act of Contrition.*

HAVE mercy upon me, O God, according to Thy great mercy : and according to the multitude of Thy tender mercies blot out my iniquity. O who will give water to my head, and a fountain of tears to my eyes, that, day and night, I may bewail my sins? O that I had never offended so good a God! O that I had never sinned! Happy those souls that have always preserved their baptismal innocence! Lord, be merciful to me a sinner; Holy Jesus, Son of the Living God, have mercy upon me.

*Act of Commendation to God.*

I COMMEND my soul to God my Maker, who created me from nothing; to Jesus Christ my Saviour, who redeemed me with His Blood; to the Holy Ghost, who sanctified me in baptism. Into Thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

*Act of Renunciation of Evil.*

I RENOUNCE, from this moment and for all eternity, the devil and all his works and pomps. I abhor all his suggestions and temptations. Suffer not, O Lord, this mortal enemy of my soul to have any power over me, either now or at my last hour. Let

Thy holy Angels ever keep me and defend me against all the powers of darkness.

**O** HOLY Mary, Mother of God, who wert present beneath the Cross at the death of thy beloved Son Jesus, obtain for me the grace of a happy death.  
*Hail Mary.*

Glorious St. Michael, Prince of the heavenly host, intercede for me at the hour of my death.

O holy Guardian Angel, to whose care God, in His mercy, has committed me, stand by me at the last hour; protect me against all the powers of darkness; defend me from all my enemies, and conduct my soul to the mansions of bliss.

O all ye blessed Angels and Saints of God, assist me by your intercession in the passage from time to eternity. *Amen.*

#### A PRAYER FOR PATIENCE.

**R**EMEMBER, O most pitying Father, what this frail and feeble work of Thy hands can bear without fainting; nothing, indeed, of itself, but all things in Thee, if strengthened by Thy grace. Wherefore grant me strength, that I may suffer and endure; patience alone I ask. Lord, give me this, and behold my heart is ready, O God, my heart is ready to receive whatsoever shall be laid upon me; may it even be a consolation to me that, afflicting me with pain, Thou sparest not here, that Thou mayest spare hereafter. Grant, O Lord, that in my patience I may possess my soul; to that end may I often look upon the Face of Christ Thy Son, that as He hath suffered such terrible things in the flesh, I may endeavor to be armed with



the same mind. Wherefore I commit my strength unto Thee, O Lord ; for Thou art my Strength and my Refuge ; Thou dost uphold my life. Behold, O Lord, now am I in the midst of the fire, and how long I shall be there Thou knowest. Keep me, Thou who didst preserve unhurt the Three Children in the furnace of fire, and bring me safe out of this trial when it shall please Thee, as Thou didst deliver them, that I also may bless Thee with all Thy creatures for ever. *Amen.*

A PRAYER IN SUFFERING.

**O** LORD JESUS CHRIST, accept my sufferings which I desire to unite with Thine. Sanctify this affliction, so that every pang I feel may purify my soul and bring it nearer to Thee, to be made more one with Thee ; grant that I may welcome the sufferings which will make me more like to Thee.

O my Lord, stand Thou by me with Thy supporting grace ; sanctify each pang, sustain my weakness. And then order for me what Thou pleasest. Come now to my help, O Lord, and so purify my soul that I may be spared the last, the eternal suffering ; let me fly to the embrace of Thy love for ever.

Lord Jesus, hast Thou not invited all that labor and are heavy-burdened to come to Thee for refreshment ? Behold now Thy servant, afflicted and oppressed, comes to Thee for help ; relieve me, I beseech Thee, Thou who art Infinite in mercy.

O Thou who hast comforted the Martyrs in their torments, and refreshed them with heavenly sweetness on the rack and in the fire, renew Thy mercies to me Thine unworthy servant ; defend me against all temptation, suffer not the enemy to take advantage of

me, but grant me Thy heavenly strength, the fulness of Thy grace and peace. *Amen.*

*Ejaculation.*

**O** LORD, by Thy Cross and Passion strengthen me ;  
Lord, let this cup pass from me ; nevertheless,  
not my will but Thine be done. *Amen.*

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PRAYERS FOR A GOOD DEATH.<sup>(1)</sup>

**O** LORD JESUS, God of goodness, and Father of mercies, I draw nigh to Thee with a contrite and humble heart ; to Thee I recommend the last hour of my life, and that judgment which awaits me afterwards.

*Merciful Jesus, have mercy on me.*

When my feet, benumbed with death, shall admonish me that my mortal course is drawing to an end,

*Merciful Jesus, have mercy on me.*

When my hands, cold and trembling, shall no longer be able to clasp the crucifix, and, against my will, shall let it fall on my bed of suffering,

*Merciful Jesus, have mercy on me.*

When mine eyes, dim and troubled at the approach of death, shall fix themselves on Thee, my last and only support,

*Merciful Jesus, have mercy on me.*

When my lips, pale and trembling, shall pronounce for the last time Thine adorable name,

*Merciful Jesus, have mercy on me.*

When my face, pale and livid, shall inspire the be-

holders with pity and dismay ; when my hair, bathed in the sweat of death, and stiffening on my head, shall forbode mine approaching end,

*Merciful Jesus, have mercy on me.*

When mine ears, soon to be for ever shut to the discourse of men, shall be open to that irrevocable decree which is to fix my doom for all eternity,

*Merciful Jesus, have mercy on me.*

When my imagination, agitated by dreadful spectres, shall be sunk in an abyss of anguish ; when my soul, affrighted with the sight of my iniquities and the terrors of Thy judgments, shall have to fight against the angel of darkness, who will endeavor to conceal Thy mercies from mine eyes, and plunge me into despair,

*Merciful Jesus, have mercy on me.*

When my poor heart, oppressed with suffering and exhausted by its continual struggles with the enemies of its salvation, shall feel the pangs of death,

*Merciful Jesus, have mercy on me.*

When the last tear, the forerunner of my dissolution, shall drop from mine eyes, receive it as a sacrifice of expiation for my sins ; grant that I may expire the victim of penance ; and then, in that dreadful moment,

*Merciful Jesus, have mercy on me.*

When my friends and relations, surrounding my bed, shall be moved with compassion for me, and invoke Thy clemency in my behalf,

*Merciful Jesus, have mercy on me.*

When I shall have lost the use of my senses, when the world shall have vanished from my sight, when mine agonizing soul shall feel the pangs of death,

*Merciful Jesus, have mercy on me.*

When my last sighs shall force my soul from my body, accept them as signs of a loving impatience to come to Thee,

*Merciful Jesus, have mercy on me.*

When my soul, trembling on my lips, shall bid farewell to the world, and leave my body lifeless, pale, and cold, receive this separation as a homage which I willingly pay to Thy divine Majesty, and in that last moment of my mortal life,

*Merciful Jesus, have mercy on me.*

When at length my soul, admitted to Thy presence, shall first behold the splendor of Thy Majesty, reject it not, but receive me into Thy bosom, where I may for ever sing Thy praises ; and in that moment when eternity shall begin for me,

*Merciful Jesus, have mercy on me.*

*Let us pray.*

O GOD, who hast doomed all men to die, but hast concealed from all the hour of their death : grant that I may pass my days in the practice of holiness and justice, and that I may be made worthy to quit this world in the peace of a good conscience and in the embrace of Thy love. Through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O MARY, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee. O Refuge of sinners, O Mother of those in their agony, forsake us not in the hour of our death, but obtain for us perfect sorrow, sincere contrition, remission of our sins, a worthy re-

ception of the most holy Viaticum, the strengthening power of the Sacrament of Extreme Unction; that we may present ourselves without fear before the throne of that Judge who is both Just and Merciful, our God and our Redeemer. *Amen.*

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, I give you my heart and my soul.

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, assist me in my last agony.

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, may I breathe forth my soul in peace with you.<sup>(6)</sup>

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#### THANKSGIVING FOR RECOVERY.

**G**LORY be to Thee, O heavenly Father, for the sickness Thou hast in mercy sent me. Lord, the stripes Thou didst lay on me were the stripes of love; glory be to Thee. Before I was humbled I did wickedly; but now will I keep Thy word. It is good for me that Thou hast humbled me, that I might learn Thine ordinances.

Glory be to Thee, O Lord, glory be to Thee, for delivering me from the terrors of death, and restoring me to my health again; glory be to Thee. I called upon the Lord in my trouble, and the Lord heard me. I shall not die, but live and declare the works of the Lord. Bless the Lord, therefore, O my soul: as long as I have my life, which at first God gave me, and which He has now restored to me, I will sing praises unto my God.

O Lord God, who hast in Thy tender mercy prolonged my days in this world, give me grace to spend this life, which Thou hast now lengthened, in Thy

service. O give me grace to perform all my resolutions of new obedience, and so to live in the filial fear of Thee all the remainder of my time that I may at last die at peace with myself, at peace with the whole world, and at peace with Thee ; for the sake of Thy Dearly-beloved Son, our Lord and Saviour.

Our Father. Hail Mary. Glory be to the Father.

**T**HE blessing of God Almighty, the Father, ✠ the Son, and the Holy Ghost, descend upon me and all belonging to me, and dwell in my heart and be with me in my going out and coming in, now and for ever.  
*Amen.*

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PRAYER FOR A SICK PERSON BEFORE RECEIVING HOLY VIATICUM.

**O** FATHER of mercies, and God of all consolation, behold I Thy creature, made after Thine Image and redeemed by the Blood of Thy Only-begotten Son, appear before Thee my Creator ; by whom and for whom I was created, by whose grace I have hitherto lived ; unto whom henceforth, so long as Thou seest good, I would wish to live ; for whom, and in whom, I desire to die ; I humbly adore Thee, whom my soul desireth and longeth for ; I cry to Thee, whom alone I love above all things, O Thou my Rest, my Hope, my Love, my Desire, my heart's only Good.

O most loving Father, although I am the least of all Thy children, yea, unworthy to be called Thy child, because I have not honored Thee as a Father, yet I come to Thee with full confidence, and throw myself

upon the breast and into the arms of Thy most sweet love and mercy, grieving from my inmost soul that I have ever forsaken Thee, my God, the Fountain of all good; that I have departed from Thee, my most loving Father; and have forgotten Thee, who, as though there were none else to care for, every moment rememberest me. O that I had never offended Thee, my God and my all; accept at least this the ardent wish and desire of my inmost heart; look Thou upon me, and be merciful unto me now in the time of pity; Thou knowest, O Lord, that I love Thee, or desire to love Thee, more than myself, more than all that claims or can claim my love. I know whom I have believed, and that Thou art able to keep that which I have committed to Thee: I know, too, that a contrite and humble heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise.

I hope, O Lord, that Thou wilt never cast me away from Thy Presence, Thou who dost so lovingly invite us to Thyself, saying, *Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy-burdened, and I will refresh you.* Behold, I come, O Lord; Thou that castest not out any that come to Thee, receive me according to Thy word, and I shall live, and let me not be disappointed of my hope.

I give Thee infinite thanks because Thou hast vouchsafed to think of me so lovingly from all eternity, for creating me in time after Thine Image, and, when the fullness of time was come, for redeeming me by the Blood of Thine Only-begotten Son, for sparing me so often when sinning, and calling me so often out of the darkness of sin into Thy marvellous light.

What reward shall I give unto Thee, Lord Jesus, for Thy toilsome Life and most bitter Death, for vouchsaf-

ing so often to feed me with Thy Body and Thy Blood? What return shall I make unto Thee for all the benefits Thou hast bestowed upon me, O beloved Spouse of my soul? The deep of my nothingness and my misery calleth on the deep of Thy goodness and Thy boundless love, because of Thy wounds : in them is all my hope and my confidence : through them, and the boundless ocean of Thy love that flows from them, I come in confidence to Thee, wretched though I am, and poor and naked ; for Thou art rich towards all, and my goods are as nothing unto Thee. I will take cheerfully at Thy hand the cup of salvation which Thou givest me to drink, bitter though it be, and I will drink it with Thee, who didst drain it first for me when Thou didst so earnestly thirst for my salvation. I will call upon the name of the Lord, and offer to Thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving. O that in return for this I could embrace Thee with all the love of the heavenly company, Angels and Saints, and, above all, of Blessed Mary, Thine Immaculate Mother ; and that, with the voices and affections of all Thy creatures, I could praise and magnify Thy name.

Accept, Lord, my heart as a burnt offering ; I give it all to Thee ; I give Thee mine eyes, to see Thee alone and all things in Thee : mine ears, to hear Thy Word : my mouth, my lips and tongue, to be filled with Thy praise, and to sing of Thy glory and of Thy greatness all the day long : my hands, to be stretched forth in prayer to Thee in heaven, or in alms to the poor, and to do Thy will : my feet, to be led into the way of peace : all my members, that they may say, Lord, who is like unto Thee? Bless the Lord, O my soul, and let all that is within me bless His holy



name : bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits. I now freely surrender all these earthly things, for in Thee alone I have all things : I renounce myself, for I am Thine : I live, yet not I, but Thou, Christ Jesus, livest in me. I love Thee with all my heart, with all my mind, with all my soul, and with all my strength. *Amen.*

