

*Allocutio – November 13, 2011*

*The Souls of Our Departed Legionaries  
(Handbook Chapter 17, #3, pgs 103)*



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It is interesting to note that the Handbook puts the souls of our departed legionaries in Purgatory. This despite the fact that legionaries try to attend Mass, receive Holy Communion and pray their Rosaries every day, plus do two hours of apostolic work every week, etc. But “nothing defiled can enter Heaven” (Apoc. XXI, 27).

Purgatory is not a very nice place. Our Lord, on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of the Novena or Chaplet of Divine Mercy (Sister Faustina) which begins on Good Friday of each year, said “Today bring to Me the souls who are detained in Purgatory... Let the torrents of My Blood cool down their scorching flames...It is in your power to bring them relief. Draw all the indulgences from the treasury of My Church and offer them on their behalf. Oh, if you only knew the torments they suffer...”

And so we ask ourselves, **“How can I limit my stay in Purgatory?”**

1. **The Legion helps!** – The Handbook tells us that a Mass should be immediately offered for a deceased legionary. Each praesidium member should, more than once, recite all of the legion prayers, including the Rosary, at the wake service, the interment, and at other times. Also, during the month of November of each year, every legion praesidium in the world should have a Mass offered for all deceased legionaries. Thus, if it is estimated that there are 3 million active legionaries in the world that each praesidium is comprised of an average of 10 active legionaries, 300,000 Masses (and each Mass is of infinite value!) would be offered for deceased legionaries – a good reason to “never, never, never leave the Legion of Mary!”
2. **Other suggestions include the following:**
  - a. Have one set of Gregorian Masses offered (one Mass per day, for 30 consecutive days, for one deceased person). The Sacred Congregation of Indulgences (which is the Church) declared that “the offering of thirty Gregorian Masses has a special efficacy for obtaining from the Divine Goodness and Mercy the deliverance of a suffering soul, and it is a pious and reasonable belief of the faithful.” We can prepay Gregorian Masses for ourselves!

- b. Almsgiving – “The satisfaction made by alms is greater than that effected by prayer and fasting” (St. Thomas Aquinas).
- c. “I love you, Jesus.” Many sins were forgiven Mary Magdalene “because she loved much.”
- d. The use of the attached prayer cards, “How Can We Imitate Mary?” Many of us mention the same sins in the confessional, month after month. The use of the attached prayer cards is a great aid in reducing the number of these continually committed sins.

The above are just a few suggestions. All prayers, good works, etc. help!