

III: WHEN THE DANGER OF THE PATIENT INCREASES

Prayer of Resignation in Death *(Recite daily because you do not know the day or the hour)*

My most sweet Jesus, I accept the death Thou has destined for me, with all the pains that may accompany it, I unite it to Thy death, I offer it to Thee. Thou hast died for love of me, I will die for love of Thee, and to please Thee. Amen.

The Protestation for Death (St. Alphonsus)

My God, prostrate in Thy presence, I adore Thee; and I intend to make the following protestation, as if I were on the point of passing from this life into eternity.

My Lord, because Thou art the infallible Truth, and hast revealed it to the holy Church, I believe in the mystery of the Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Three Persons, but only one God, Who for all eternity rewards the just in heaven, and punishes the wicked in hell. I believe that the Second Person, that is the Son of God, became man and died for the salvation of mankind; and I believe all that the holy Church believes.

I thank Thee for having made me a Christian, and I protest that I will live and die in this holy faith. My God, my hope, trusting in Thy promises I hope from Thy mercy, not through my own merits, but through the merits of Jesus Christ, for the pardon of my sins, perseverance, and after this miserable life, the glory of paradise. And should the devil at death tempt me to despair at the sight of my sins, I protest that I will always hope in Thee, O Lord, and that I desire to die in the loving arms of Thy goodness. O God, worthy of infinite love, I love Thee with my whole heart, more than I love myself; and I protest that I desire to die making an act of love, that I may thus continue to love Thee eternally in heaven, which for this end I desire and ask of Thee. And if hitherto, O Lord, instead of loving Thee, I have despised Thy infinite goodness, I repent of it with all my heart, and I protest that I wish to die always weeping over, and detesting, the offences I have committed against Thee. I purpose for the future rather to die than ever to sin again; and for the love of Thee, I pardon all who have offended me.

O God, I accept of death, and of all the suffering which will accompany it, I unite it with the sufferings and death of Jesus Christ, and offer it in acknowledgment of Thy supreme dominion, and in satisfaction for my sins. Do Thou, O Lord, accept of this sacrifice, which I make of my life, for the love of that great sacrifice which Thy divine Son made of Himself upon the altar of the cross. I resign myself entirely to Thy divine will as though I were now on my death-bed and protest that I wish to die, Thy will be done.

Most holy Virgin, my advocate and my Mother, Mary, thou art and wilt always be, after God, my hope and my consolation at the hour of death. From this moment I have recourse to thee and beg of thee to assist me in that passage. O my dear Queen, do not abandon me in that last moment; come then to take my soul and present it to thy Son. Henceforward I shall expect thee; and I hope to die under thy mantle and clinging to thy feet.

My protector St Joseph, St Michael archangel, my angel guardian, my holy patrons, do you all assist me in that last combat with hell. And Thou, my crucified Love, Thou, my Jesus, Who were pleased to choose for Thyself so bitter a death to obtain for me a good death, remember at that hour, that I am one of those dear sheep Thou didst purchase with Thy blood. Thou Who, when all the world shall have forsaken me, and not one shall be able to assist me, canst alone console me and save me. Do Thou make me worthy then to receive Thee in the Viaticum and suffer me not to lose Thee forever and to be banished forever to a distance from Thee. No my beloved Saviour, receive me then into Thy sacred wounds, for I now embrace Thee.

At my last breath I intend to breathe forth my soul into the loving wound in Thy side, saying now for that moment, Jesus and Mary, I give you my heart and my soul! O happy suffering, to suffer for God. Happy death, to die in the Lord ! I embrace Thee now, my good Redeemer, that I may die in Thy embraces. If, O my soul, Mary assists thee at thy departure, and Jesus receives thy last breath, it will not be death, but a sweet repose.

Willing Acceptance of Death (St. Alphonsus)

O my Jesus, I offer Thee my life and am ready to die when it pleases Thee. Thy will be done."
Lord, if it pleases Thee to leave me still for a time on this earth, may Thy name be praised. Yet I would not wish to live longer if my life were not wholly to be employed in loving and glorifying Thee. If it be Thy will that I die of this or of some other illness, may Thy holy name be equally praised. I receive death in order to fulfil Thy will; all I ask of Thee is to assist me in my last hour. Have mercy on me, O God, according to Thy great mercy.

If it is Thy will that I should leave this earth, I protest that I will die, because so it is Thy will. I will also die in order that, by the anguish and bitterness of my death, I may offer satisfaction to the divine justice for the many sins by which I have offended it and have thereby deserved hell I will also die that I may no longer be able to offend Thee or cause Thee any displeasure. I will die to show Thee my gratitude for the numerous benefits and favors which, in spite of my unworthiness, I have received at Thy hands. I will die to show that I love Thy will more than my life. I wish, if it so pleases Thee, to die now while I hope to be in Thy grace, in order to be sure of praising and extolling Thee forever.

But above all, I will die in order to love Thee with all my strength and forever in heaven, where through Thy precious blood, O my Saviour, I hope to arrive someday, and where I shall be certain to love Thee unceasingly. My Jesus, through love of me Thou didst will to suffer death on the cross; behold, I also through love of Thee accept death with all the sufferings which await me in my last hour, saying with St. Francis: Let me die, O Lord, through love of Thee, Who didst die through love of me.

O my Redeemer, my Love, my only Good, I beseech Thee through Thy sacred wounds and painful death, let me die in Thy grace and love.

O Jesus, my Saviour, I beseech Thee most particularly through the pains Thou didst endure when Thy most holy soul was separated from Thy adorable body, graciously receive my soul on leaving my body.

O Mother of God, most blessed Virgin Mary, intercede with Jesus for me at the hour of my death, when in a most special manner I shall be in need of thy assistance.

O Mary, Mother of grace, Mother of mercy, shield us from the enemy and receive us in the hour of death. To thy protection we fly, O holy Mother of God! Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners.

O holy Joseph, my loving Father, assist me in that decisive moment.

St. Michael, the archangel, deliver me from the evil spirits who lay snares for my soul.

My holy patron, and all ye saints of heaven, pray to God for me. Amen.

Litany for a Happy Death

O Lord Jesus, God of goodness and Father of mercies, I approach Thee with a contrite and humble heart; to Thee I recommend my last hour, and that which then awaits me. When my feet, now motionless, shall admonish me that my mortal course is drawing to an end. Merciful Jesus, have mercy on me.

OUR DEVOTIONS AND PRAYERS FOR THE SICKROOM
Annotated Sections By Jos. Aloysius Krebs, C.S.S.R.

When my hands, cold and trembling, shall no longer be able to hold Thy crucified image, and shall let it fall from their feeble grasp upon my bed of pain. Merciful Jesus, have mercy on me.

When my eyes, dim and troubled at the horror of approaching death, shall fix on Thee their languid and expiring looks. Merciful Jesus, have mercy on me.

When my lips, cold and trembling, shall pronounce for the last time Thy adorable name. Merciful Jesus, have mercy on me.

When my cheeks, pale and livid, shall inspire the beholders with pity and dismay; and my hair, bathed in the sweat of death, and stiffening on my head, shall forebode my approaching end. Merciful Jesus, have mercy on me.

When my ears, soon to be forever shut to the discourse of men, Shall open to hear Thy voice pronounce the irrevocable decree which shall decide my lot for eternity.
Merciful Jesus, have mercy on me.

When my imagination, agitated by horrid and terrifying phantoms, shall be sunk in mortal anguish, when my soul, affrighted at 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 my eyes, and plunge me into despair. Merciful Jesus, have mercy on me.

When my poor heart, oppressed with the pains of sickness and exhausted by its struggles against the enemies of its salvation, shall be seized with the pangs of death. When the last tears, forerunners of my dissolution, shall drop from my eyes, receive them as a sacrifice of expiation for my sins, that I may die the victim of penance, and in that dreadful moment. Merciful Jesus, have mercy on me.

When my friends and relatives, encircling 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 and the world shall vanish from my sight, when I shall groan with anguish in my last agony and in the sorrows of death. Merciful Jesus, have mercy on me.

When my last sighs shall summon my soul to go forth from my body, receive them as the effects of a holy impatience to fly to Thee, and in that moment. Merciful Jesus, have mercy on me.

When my soul, trembling on my lips, shall bid adieu 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 me not, but receive me into Thy bosom, where I may forever 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 deserve to quit this world in the peace of a good conscience, and in the embrace of Thy holy love; through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Desire of Heaven (St. Alphonsus)

Those souls who had but a faint desire of heaven will have a special pain to endure in purgatory; that is the so-called pain of desire or yearning. This life is a prison, a place of punishment, where we cannot see God. Therefore, David prayed, Conduct my soul out of prison. And St. Augustine exclaims, Let me die, O Lord, that I may see Thee. Say therefore, I desire heaven, in order to love Thee, O my God, forever and with all my strength. When shall I be able to say: My God, now I can no longer lose Thee? When, O my God, shall I behold Thy infinite beauty and love Thee face to face? In heaven I shall always love Thee and Thou wilt always love me; we shall then forever love each other, O my God, my Love and my All My Jesus, when shall I kiss the wounds Thou hast received for me?

O Mary, my Mother, thou who hast lavished so much love and help upon me, when shall I come to see thee and prostrate myself at thy feet? Turn then, my gracious advocate, thy merciful eyes towards me, and after this exile show unto me Jesus, the blessed fruit of thy womb.

