

IV: THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE HOLY SACRAMENTS

Prayers For Receiving the Holy Sacrament of Penance (Confession)

Preparatory Prayers:

O God, the Father of light! Thou Who enlightens all men that come into this world, send into my poor soul a bright and burning ray of holy charity, that I may know, abhor, and confess the sins which I have committed against Thee. I desire to see my sins in all their enormity, and just as they are in Thy sight: I wish to detest them for the love of Thee, and to confess them with the same sincerity as I should wish to do at the moment of my death. Jesus, my God and Saviour, I offer to Thee the examination which I am going to make, and I look to Thee with confidence for the grace to do it well. And do thou, O Mother of God, assist me. Thou who art so full of compassion for sinners that sincerely desire to repent of their sins. Help me, my holy guardian angel ! help me to know all the offences which I have committed against my God. Oh ! all ye saints of heaven, pray for me, that I may bring forth worthy fruits of penance. Amen

Examination of Conscience:

- **First Commandment** - Have you doubted any article of faith or denied your religion? Have you exposed your faith to danger by going to Protestant churches or reading Protestant books? Have you gone on in your sins, trusting to confess them on your deathbed? Have you neglected your prayers, said them carelessly, or behaved disrespectfully before the Blessed Sacrament? Have you made a bad confession or communion? Have you given faith to dreams or consulted fortune-tellers?
- **Second Commandment** - Have you taken a false oath? A rash oath or an oath to do something wicked or unlawful? Have you broken your lawful oaths? How often? Have you sworn rashly or inconsiderately by the name of God, by your soul or by way of imprecation upon yourself? Have you cursed yourself or others? Was it from your heart? How often? Have you spoken disrespectfully of God, of His saints, or of sacred things?
- **Third Commandment** - Have you missed Holy Mass through your own fault on Sundays or holy days, arrived late or kept others from going? Have you behaved badly during Mass? Have you done any servile work without necessity on those days? Have you eaten meat on Fridays, or Fasting Days?
- **Fourth Commandment**
(for Children) - Have you been disobedient, sulky or stubborn? Have you behaved disrespectfully to your parents? Called them names, or cursed or struck them? Have you kept your wages from them or neglected to help them?

(For Parents) – Have you neglected to have your children baptized soon after their birth? To teach them their prayers? To send them to school? Catechism? Mass? Have you sent them to Protestant schools? Have you given them bad example by cursing or quarrelling in their presence? Have you neglected to keep your children out of bad company? Have you let them stay out late at night or exposed them in any other way to the danger of sinning? Have you left your family in want, wasting your wages in drink, etc.? Have you fulfilled your duty to each other as husband and wife?

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- **Fifth Commandment** - Have you been guilty of anger, quarrelling, or fighting? Have you borne malice to anyone, or desired to revenge yourself? Have you been intoxicated yourself, or made others so?

- **Sixth and Ninth Commandments** - Have you given way to immodest thoughts, looks, or actions with yourself or others? Have you read or lent bad books? Have you been guilty of bad talking? Have you sung bad or immodest songs, and in presence of how many? Have you exposed yourself to danger of sin? Have you kept bad company or kept company at improper times and in dangerous places?

- **Seventh and Tenth Commandments** - Have you stolen from your parents or others? Used false weights or measures, passed false money, or cheated in any way in buying or selling? Have you encouraged others to steal or shared in stolen goods, pawned or sold them? Have you wasted your master's time or goods, or let others rob him? Have you delayed making restitution, or neglected to pay your debts?

- **Eighth Commandment** - Have you told lies of your neighbor, or made known his secret faults, and to how many, and what is the amount of the injury you have done? Have you carried stories backwards and forwards, or in any way made mischief among your neighbors or at home? Have you told lies in self-excuse, or given way to rash judgments or jealous suspicions?

Act of Contrition:

O God of infinite majesty, behold at Thy feet the traitor who has again offended Thee, but who now in all humility asks Thy pardon. O Lord, reject me not. Thou canst not despise a humbled heart I thank Thee for having waited for me up to the present moment, and for not having allowed me to die when I was in sin, and be sent to hell, as I had deserved. The patience Thou hast shown towards me, O my God, makes me hope that through the merits of Jesus Christ Thou wilt pardon me in this confession all my offences against Thee. I repent of them and am grieved because I have thereby deserved hell, and lost heaven; but I am especially sorry for them from the bottom of my heart, not so much because I have deserved hell, but because I have displeased Thee, Who art infinite goodness.

Yes, I love Thee, O sovereign Good, and because I love Thee, I repent of all my offences against Thee. I have turned my back upon Thee; I have been wanting in respect towards Thee; I have despised Thy grace, Thy friendship; in a word, O Lord, I have willfully lost Thee. Ah! for the love of Jesus Christ forgive me all my sins: I repent of them with my whole heart; I hate, I detest them; I abhor them more than all evils, and I repent not only of my mortal, but also of my venial sins, which likewise displease Thee. I purpose for the future, with the help of Thy grace, nevermore willfully to offend Thee. Yes, my God, I will rather die than sin again.

After Confession:

My dear Jesus, how much do I not owe Thee! By the merits of Thy blood, I trust that I have this day been pardoned. I thank Thee exceedingly, and I hope to praise Thy mercies forever in heaven. My God, if hitherto I have so often lost Thee, I will lose Thee no more for the time to come I am really resolved to change my life. Thou deserves all my love; I wish to love Thee in good earnest. My will is never again to be separated from Thee. I have already promised Thee, and I promise Thee again at this moment, to consent rather to die than to offend Thee again. I promise to fly the occasion of sin, and to use this means (here mention it) for not falling again. But Thou, my Jesus, knows my weakness, give me the grace to be faithful to Thee until death, and to have recourse to Thee in my temptations. Most holy Virgin Mary, assist me. Thou art the Mother of perseverance. I place all my hope in thee.

Prayers For Receiving the Sacrament of Holy Viaticum

Preparatory Prayers:

Through Thy unspeakable goodness, O my dearest Jesus, Thou hast, as I hope, forgiven me my sins in the Sacrament of Penance. But not satisfied with this, Thou wilt now give me Thy adorable body and blood as a pledge of Thy mercy, and as I am not able to appear at the foot of Thy altar, Thou deigns to come to my sick-bed. Ah, how infinitely great is Thy love for me ! But before entering my heart, cleanse it yet more, inflame it with Thy love, augment my faith and my hope, and then be for me the celestial nourishment, which will help me to triumph over the enemies of my soul. Divine Jesus, in Thee alone do I put my trust; Thou alone canst be my helper and consoler. Awaken within my heart those feelings which can make it pleasing to Thine; come into my heart, most bountiful Jesus (as my Viaticum); protect and make me strong against the pursuit of the wicked enemy and give my soul everlasting bliss. Amen.

When the Priest Enters the House with the Most Holy Sacrament:

Behold my Creator, my Redeemer comes to me, His poor unworthy creature! I adore Thee with deepest reverence, O my God! With the greatest impatience do I desire Thee, my loving Master! Come, come, O my God! Come, to strengthen my weakness, to heal my wounds, to alleviate my suffering, to enrich me with the fulness of Thy graces and to inflame me with Thy love! Come, loving Jesus, stay within me, as I wish in life and in death to be united with Thee forever.

On a table covered with a clean white cloth put a crucifix between two lighted candles, a glass of pure drinking-water, and a vessel with holy water.

On entering the sick-room, the priest says:

P: Pax huic domui.

R: Et omnibus habitantibus in ea.

Soon after the priest and people pray alternately:

P. Adjutorium nostrum in nomine Domini.

R: Qui fecit coelum et terram.

P. Domine exaudi orationem meam.

R. Et clamor meus ad te veniat.

P. Dominus vobiscum.

R. Et cum spiritu tuo.

R. Pray the Confiteor.

Thanksgiving:

I have now the great happiness to possess Thee in my heart, O good Jesus! I adore Thy infinite majesty, and cannot say aught else but: Who art Thou, O Lord, and who am I, whom Thou hast deigned to visit? At this thought I humble myself in Thy presence as much as I am able. How infinitely great is Thy goodness! How admirable Thy love! My God, my Redeemer, my Jesus, has united Himself to me! Now I can say with the prophet, Although I walk in the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for Thou, O God, art with me. I thank Thee, O God of my soul, and would that I were able to thank Thee.

I pray my angel guardian, my holy patrons, and the most Blessed Virgin to praise, bless and thank Thee in my stead. I wish and pray now for nothing else, but that all the sighs and inward motions of my heart until my last breath may be acts of sincere repentance and of burning love. From this bed of pain, I offer myself wholly to Thee and with the most perfect resignation to Thy divine will. I thank Thee for all Thy

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benefits, and deeply regret ever having misused them by offending Thee. Henceforth I will love Thee with all my heart and above all things. I am now united with Thee and will never more separate myself from Thee. O Jesus, Jesus, Thou art my sovereign Good, the Beloved of my heart, Thou art my All!

Forsake me not. If Thou wilt that I should suffer, suffer much, I am ready with Thy grace to suffer through love of Thee. Ah, most dear, most bountiful Jesus, this I implore, through Thy suffering, Thy precious blood, Thy cross and Thy death, let me forever be the object of Thy mercy, that I may praise Thee in heaven and enjoy the delights of paradise. Amen

Other Prayers Before Holy Communion:

O my Jesus! I firmly believe all that Thou teaches through Thy holy Church; especially do I believe that Thou art truly present in the Most Holy Sacrament; I believe all this because it has been taught by Thee, Who art eternal Truth.

O my Jesus! I hope that in Thy infinite goodness and mercy Thou wilt pardon me all my sins and give me the grace to persevere and save my soul.

O my Jesus! I love Thee with my whole heart and above all things, because Thou art the supreme, most perfect and amiable Good. Out of love for Thee I repent of all my sins; I will rather die than offend Thy infinite majesty again.

O my Jesus! I adore Thee in this Most Holy Sacrament because Thou art my Lord and God, my Creator and Redeemer.

O my Jesus! I am not worthy that Thou should enter under my roof, yet speak but the word, and my soul shall be healed. (Repeat Three times)

O my Jesus! My God and my All! My heart desires to receive Thee, come and unite my soul to Thee.

After Holy Communion:

O my Jesus! my Lord and God, I adore Thee from the bottom of my heart, and I will adore Thee for all eternity.

O Jesus! Thou art the eternal Truth; I believe in Thee.

O Jesus! Thou art the eternal Goodness; I hope in Thee.

O Jesus! my love ! I love Thee above all things.

O my Jesus! whence comes this grace that Thou, my Lord and God, dost visit me, a wretched sinner, and dost nourish me with Thy own flesh and blood?

O my Jesus ! may praise and thanks be given to Thee for all eternity, because Thou hast deigned to visit me, a poor sinner.

O my Jesus ! I offer Thee my body and my soul, and all that I am and all that I have. Do with me what Thou pleases, now and for all eternity.

Prayers For Receiving the Sacrament of Extreme Unction

Before Extreme Unction:

Divine Saviour, let me now be strengthened by the holy Sacrament of Extreme Unction, which Thy boundless mercy has so lovingly instituted for Thy faithful sick. I firmly believe that this sacrament will restore to me the health of the body, if it be good for my salvation; I likewise believe that it will relieve me in my illness, strengthen me against temptations, and remit those of my sins for which, without my knowledge, I may still be indebted to Thy justice; for such is the teaching of Thy holy apostle: Is any man sick among you? Let him bring in the priests of the Church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith shall save the sick man: and the Lord shall raise him up: and if he be in sins, they shall be forgiven him. (Jas. v. 14, 15).

I thank Thee, O my God, for having instituted this means of grace also for me, who ardently desire to receive it, that I may be completely cleansed from all the sins which I have ever committed through my inward and outward senses. Fill my heart evermore with horror and hatred of the least transgression of Thy law, with perfect resignation to Thy holy will, that I may worthily receive Extreme Unction, for the salvation of my body and soul. Amen.

My God, grant me, I beseech Thee, the grace to receive Extreme Unction and all the operations of grace combined with this holy sacrament, so that the wounds of my soul may be healed. Alas, how often, O my God, have I made use of my senses to offend Thee ! Instead of consecrating to Thee all the members of my body, I have misused them, making them instruments of injustice and of sin. Through holy Baptism my body had become Thy temple, and I have often profaned it. I ask Thee, O Lord, for mercy, compassion and forgiveness. I repent and am deeply sorry for all my sins, because I have thereby offended Thee, my supreme Good, Who deserves to be loved infinitely and above all things. I will nevermore offend Thee. Pardon me, console me, and make me happy, O Lord, through the infinite merits of the precious blood and death of Thy Son, my divine Redeemer.

On a table covered with a clean white cloth, place a crucifix with two lighted candles. At the left side of the table there must be a vessel containing holy water; at the right side, one with drinking-water, and in the center a plate with seven little balls of cotton, some salt or breadcrumbs.

On entering the sick-room, the priest says:

P: Pax huic domui.

R: Et omnibus habitantibus in ea.

Soon after the priest says:

P: Adjutorium nostrum in nomine Domini.

R: Qui fecit coelum et terrain.

P: Dominus vobiscum.

R: Et cum spiritu tuo.

R: Pray the Confiteor.

P: Kyrie eleison.

R: Christe eleison

P: Kyrie eleison.

P: Salvum (am) fac servum tuum (ancillam tuam),

R: Deus meus, sperantem in te.

P: Mitte ei, Domine, auxilium de sancto,
R: Et de Sion tuere eum (earn).

P: Esto ei, Domine, turris fortitudinis,
R: A facie inimici.

P: Nihil proficiat inimicus in eo (ea).
R: Et filius iniquitatis non apponat nocere ei.

P: Domine exaudi orationem meam,
R: Et clamor meus ad te veniat.

P: Dominus vobiscum,
R: Et cum spiritu tuo.

After Extreme Unction:

I thank Thee, O my divine Redeemer, with all my heart, for having strengthened and sanctified my soul by the Sacrament of Extreme Unction. I hope that now all my sins are effaced, and that what may have been deficient in my penance and confession has been made up for through the grace of this holy sacrament. Therefore I will dismiss every kind of uneasiness about it, and confidently give myself up into the hands of Thy mercy; I also hope that Thou wilt restore me to health, if it would be profitable for me to live longer; and if not, I rejoice, O my sweet Saviour, to be permitted to enter soon with a pure heart in to everlasting rest; for one day with Thee in heaven is better than a thousand years here on earth. Let me nevermore lose the grace of Thy holy sacraments.

When the priest gives the general absolution:

P: Adjutorium nostrum in nomine Domini.
R: Qui fecit coelum et terram.

P. Kyrie eleison.
R. Christe eleison.

P. Kyrie eleison.
P: Pater noster...
R: Sed libera nos a malo.

P: Salvum (am) fac servum tuum (ancillam tuam).
R: Deus meus, sperantem in te.

P: Domine exaudi orationem meam.
R: Et clamor meus ad te veniat.

P: Dominus vobiscum.
R: Et cum spiritu tuo.
R: Pray the Confiteor.

Prayers when the Sick Person has no opportunity to receive the Last Sacraments

Almighty, eternal and merciful God, Who didst say: Invoke Me in the hour of need, and didst utter this consoling promise: As I live, I will not the death of the sinner, but that he be converted and live. Behold, I am a poor, miserable sinner, stricken with illness and oppressed with the heavy load of innumerable misdeeds, come to Thee in this my utmost need, reminding Thee, O bountiful Father, of Thy promise, which is the only consolation left to my afflicted soul, and imploring Thy grace and mercy.

See, O Lord, my heart is sorely afflicted, and my strength has left me. But Thou, all wise God, Who searches the reins and the heart, Thou knows the desire of my oppressed soul and how gladly and willingly I would make use of the salutary means of reconciliation, which Thou has left us in the sacraments. But being now deprived of the opportunity of receiving them, I beseech Thy infinite goodness and mercy graciously to accept my good will and heartfelt desire, to confess my sins, as also to receive the holy Viaticum and Extreme Unction.

Alas, most merciful Lord, cast me not from before Thy face, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. I confess to Thee, almighty God, all the sins of my life, and I repent with all my heart for ever having offended Thee, my supreme Good, Who art worthy of all love. I am firmly resolved, provided that Thou should grant me some time more to live, to amend my sinful life and at the first opportunity to confess my sins and to do penance for them. O benevolent Father, fulfil this my desire.

