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J.M.J.

PRAYER OF WILLING ACCEPTANCE OF DEATH

—*Saint Alphonsus Liguori*



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 some day, 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 to receive my soul on its 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.

DESIRE OF HEAVEN

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!