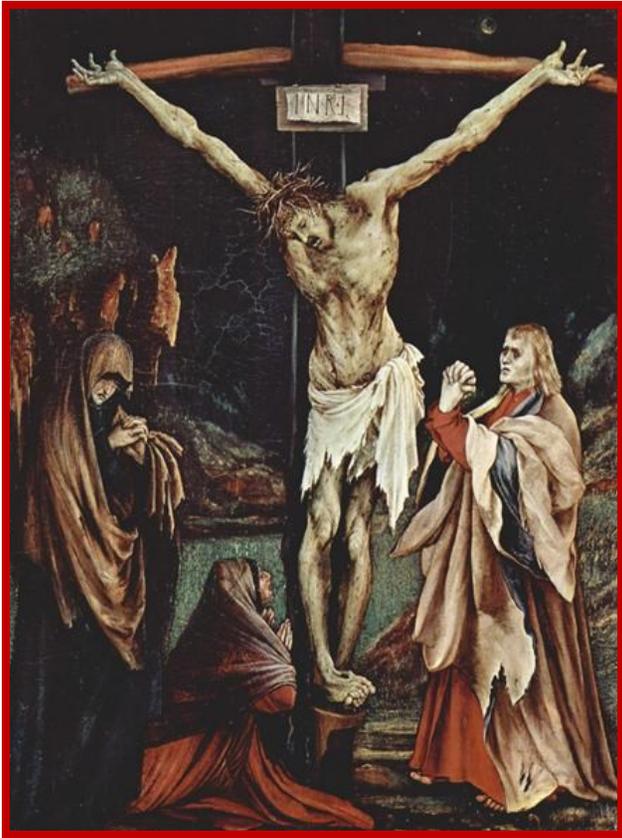


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J.M.J.

THE VICTIM OF SIN

*A prayer in which
our Blessed Lord hanging on the
Cross is offered to God the Father.
—Prayers of Saint Gertrude*



LOOK down, O pitiful
Father, from the throne of Thy
Majesty and the lofty
habitation of Thy heavens,
and behold Thy beloved Son
hanging so piteously and so
ignominiously on the Cross,
His sacred Body all stretched
and racked, and torn with
cruel wounds.

Look down upon that
spotless Lamb, who opened
not His mouth when in the
jaws of the wolves, to speak
one word of deprecation or
complaint. See Thy most
beloved Son, Thy sweet Jesus,
shedding His Blood with such
profuse liberality for the sin of
His brethren.

Behold that sacred Head,
before which the Powers of
heaven bow in reverent awe,
now itself bowed in
dereliction and in anguish.

See that Face,
fairer than the sons of men,
defiled with spittings,
seamed with scars,

besmeared with blood,
and marred with livid
bruises.

Behold:

His eyes swimming in tears,
His gracious mouth distorted,
His sunken pallid cheeks,
His hair plucked out,
His arms so painfully
stretched,
His bones out of joint,
His breast torn with wounds,
His skin all scarred with
gashes,
His weak and trembling
knees,
His hands and feet dug
through with cruel nails,
His pierced side,
His heart laid open,
and all His limbs swollen
with scourging and
with blows.

Remember, O most
compassionate Father, who it
is that suffers; and remember
in Thy mercy for whom He
suffers. Is not this Thy well-
beloved Son, whom Thou hast

begotten from everlasting, and cherished in Thine inmost heart? Is not this that most spotless Lamb who, obedient to Thee even unto death, hath offered himself a sacrifice and a victim for our sins?

Suffer Thyself, then, to be touched with that great sight which Thine only begotten Son hath set before Thee upon the Cross, and with the satisfaction

He hath made for our sins. Remember all His groanings, remember all the tears He shed upon the Cross, while He prayed for those who had crucified him, saying: Father, forgive them! To this end I set forth before Thee and offer Thee, for my innumerable sins, offences, and negligences, this Thy Son, who is made unto me justice, and sanctification, and redemption.

Behold, O most holy Father, I set before Thee Thy

most humble Son, who has made most abundant atonement to Thee for all my sins of **pride**.

I set forth before Thee and offer Thee this Thy most meek and gentle Son, who has made atonement to Thee for all my sins of **anger**.

I offer Thee Thy most loving Son, who has fully satisfied for all my sins of **hatred**.

His most gracious liberality has paid whatever debt I have contracted through my **avarice**.

His most holy works have made amends for my **sloth**.

His most perfect abstinence has satisfied for my **gluttony**.

The purity of His most holy life has blotted out whatever sins I have committed by **evil thoughts, or words, or deeds**.

His entire and finished obedience, wherein He was obedient unto Thee even unto death,

has effaced my **disobedience**.

Lastly, let His universal and absolute perfection plead for my utter imperfection and lack of all virtues.

This is my treasure, O most compassionate Father, in which I put my trust; this is the price wherewith I pay Thee all my debts. I beseech Thee, therefore, by the virtue of all the prayers which Thy Son poured out before Thee on behalf of sinners, that Thou wouldst deign to render this my oblation valid, acceptable, and availing; and by the most sinless Humanity of the same Jesus Christ Thy Son to look on me as pure and cleansed from all sin, and endowed and adorned by His glorious Divinity with all those virtues wherewith that same Divinity caused His most holy Humanity to blossom and to bear fruit. Amen.