

THE THIRD DAY.

The prayer DIRECT, WE BESEECH THEE *as above* (p. 1), *then*:

O GLORIOUS Saint Augustine, model of penitents, and father of saints, how can we think of thy generosity to that God who called thee to himself from sin, without feeling ashamed of our own tepidity and negligence; like thee, we too have offended God, and provoked his terrible vengeance by repeated sin. He spares us mercifully, and yet how do we appreciate his mercy, and the time for reparation he yet gives us?

From that moment, O great Saint Augustine, when thy heart was responsive, and thee, like another Paul, came to know what the Lord would have thee do, Oh! how unselfishly, how unreservedly thee, like a mighty giant, devoted the transcendent powers of thy great mind, the faculties of thy gifted soul, to the work of God!

No labour could oppress thee; no difficulties discourage thee, no opposition withstand, no danger daunt thee; but like the brilliant sun emerging from morning mists, and hastening on to its meridian splendour, even so, undaunted soldier of Jesus, fearless champion of eternal truth, thou in thy work for God among his Saints, shine like the sun, with a radiance all thine own, to flash thy brightness on the souls of others, and lead them to God.

Oh, vouchsafe, great and glorious Augustine, our father, to help us in our struggles for God; teach us to know him, teach us to know ourselves, that in very gratitude to that bountiful God, who yet spares us, we may, heart and soul, strive to serve him, and to keep ever alive in our souls the lamp of his grace, that when we come to die, and life looks to us like a dream, we may yet cling to the only reality about us—God—and in him, and through him, pass away from the shadows of life to the undying realities of that home beyond whither, even now, our Saviour Jesus, Mary our Mother, the glorious Saint Monica, and thee, our protector and father, great Saint Augustine, call and welcome us. *R.* Amen.

OUR FATHER & HAIL MARY *three times, with the prayers*
BEFORE THY EYES, &c. *as above* (p. 2).

A Triduum of Prayer

IN HONOUR OF

Saint Augustine of Hippo



THE FIRST DAY.

DIRECT, we beseech thee, O Lord, our actions by thy holy inspirations, and carry them on by thy gracious assistance: that every prayer and work of ours may begin always from thee, and by thee be happily ended. Through Christ our Lord. *R.* Amen.

O NOBLE triumph of divine mercy, marvellous prodigy of divine grace, our renowned Father Saint Augustine, who wast led forth from the darkness of error, and guided by the rays of divine light to the knowledge of eternal Truth—of the supreme Good, which is God. Just so much, O great doctor, and light of the Church, as thou didst for years resist and revolt against the authority of the Almighty, so much did God pursue thee, and seek by the influence of his grace to snap asunder the iron bolts of vice, pride, and waywardness, that kept your great soul in gloom worse than the bondage of Egypt, worse than that Egyptian darkness in captivity.

And when, at the command of God, by a mighty grace these fetters fell from you, and you were free — free like the eagle when from mountain summit he soars away towards the regal sun; thou, O great Saint Augustine, borne on the wings of love, flew to God and sang the song of thy soul when thou didst say: ‘Too late have I known thee, too late have I loved thee, O Beauty, ever ancient and ever new.’

Look lovingly on us, O great Saint, thy clients, thy children, and intercede for the special grace we ask. Obtain for us one ray of that celestial light which flashed on thy soul of old, to dissipate the mighty darkness of our poor hearts. Obtain for us a will docile to the inspirations of grace, so that conquering the difficulties that interpose themselves between us and God, we may by grace walk securely on the edge of the terrible precipice, and reach at length the happy home where no danger, nor sin, nor sorrow shall be any more. *R.* Amen.

BEFORE thy eyes, O Lord, we bring our sins and with them compare the stripes we have received.

If we weigh the evil we have done, we find what we suffer to be much less than what we deserve. What we have committed far outweighs what we endure. We feel the punishment of sin, and yet we turn not from our wilfulness in sinning.

Our weakness faints under thy scourges; but our perverseness is still the same. Our diseased mind is racked with pain, and our neck is as stiff as ever. Our life is spent in sighs and grief; but in our actions we are not reformed.

If thou expect our amendment, we grow no better; if thou take revenge, we are not able to subsist. When we are chastised, we acknowledge what we have done; but when thy visitation is over, we forget what we have wept for. If thou stretch out thy hand, we promise duty; if thou suspend thy sword, we keep not our promise. If thou strike, we cry for pardon; and if thou pardon, we provoke thee again to strike.

Here, O Lord, are criminals confessing their guilt; we know that unless thou forgive thou mayst justly destroy us. Grant, without our merit, what we ask, O Almighty Father, who out of nothing didst create us to ask thee, through Christ our Lord. *R.* Amen.

Antiphon. We wait in expectation of our Saviour's coming, who will reform our frail bodies according to the model of his glorious Body.

V. Behold, the God of heaven is our Redeemer.

R. In him, without fear, we will put our trust.

Let us pray.

ALmighty God, who, for the redemption of mankind, didst send thy only Son to take our flesh, and suffer death on the Cross: We humbly pray that as our Saviour has left us here the example of his patience, he may vouchsafe to make us hereafter partakers of his glory: Who liveth and reigneth one God, with thee and the Holy Ghost, for ever and ever. *R.* Amen.

The prayer DIRECT, WE BESEECH THEE *as above (p. 1), then:*

WHAT a magnificent spectacle, O glorious Saint Augustine, didst thou present to heaven and earth when, regenerated by the waters of holy Baptism, thou wert in truth born again, and began in the strength of wondrous grace a new life — no longer the slave of sensuality — no longer the captive of tyrannous pride — no longer the victim of cruel passion, but altogether changed, thou didst give thy soul to God, and the cloudy gloom of sin gave way to the bright day of charity's beaming light in thy soul.

As a martyr of voluntary mortification, thy humility, O great Saint, became to many a flowing fountain of grace, as thy pride of old had poured its flood of ruin on thy soul.

Like another Peter, one look from Jesus had roused the dormant powers of thy great heart into action, and the hot tears of compunction that streamed from thy penitent heart when thou didst make that confession to the world of thy wandering from thy God, tell the unspeakable earnestness of thy soul, and how brightly the mild light of God's love was burning there.

O glorious Saint Augustine, our protector and father, turn a willing ear to the heartfelt prayers of thy poor and exiled children, and intercede for us with God, that he, in his mercy, may grant our special petitions.

By that intense charity which burned in thy soul; by that light of divine science that illumined it; by that wondrous heat that inflamed it; by that humility which, as a most precious gem, adorned it, we implore of thee, O great Saint and Doctor, to obtain for us a tiny ray of true pure love of God, that in its light we may see the hollowness of earthly things, and feeling there is nothing true but heaven, we may strive earnestly and manfully to cling to God and his grace, and thus reach and length the eternal shore. *R.* Amen.

OUR FATHER & HAIL MARY *three times, with the prayers*
BEFORE THY EYES, &c. *as above (p. 2).*