

### Three short prayers

#### **St. Gertrude's prayer, with extension**

On March 18th 2001, Mother Mary said to the visionary Mirjana in Medjugorje, "Today I call you to love and mercy. Give love to each other as your Father gives it to you. Be merciful – with the heart. Do good works, not letting them wait for you too long. Every mercy that comes from the heart brings you closer to my Son."

Here is an example how to carry out "not letting them wait for you too long." When people die, do not delay until the funeral Mass to pray for them. Do it right away. Pray for their family and friends also, both the living and the dead.

**"Eternal Father, I offer you the most Precious Blood of your Divine Son, Jesus, in union with the Masses said throughout the world today, for all the holy souls in purgatory, for sinners and unbelievers, for those who are far from you and those who do not know your love: everywhere, in the universal Church, in all homes and all families. Amen."**

The first part of the above prayer was given by Jesus to St. Gertrude the Great of Germany; we are told Our Lord promised that 1000 souls would be released from Purgatory each time the prayer was said.

The second part is added personally because Our Lady of Medjugorje invites us to pray for the people mentioned in the longer list. We can ask her to beg from Jesus that 1000 souls in each of the additional categories be saved through our request.

#### **Two prayers based on the Gospel**

Stay connected to the Lord. By means of the two simple prayers below, we can keep in conscious touch with God who lives in us at all times. May his peace be felt by those who keep him in their minds and hearts. May his peace come also to their families, parishes, work places, to whomever they meet and wherever they go.

God comes to us in special ways at Baptism, Confirmation, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Holy Communion, Marriage, Holy Orders, the Sacrament of the Healing of the Sick; he comes when we love God by keeping Jesus' commandments; he comes when it is in his plan to do so; he comes when we ask our Father.

##### 1. Ask

The last point is supported by Jesus' pledge: "Ask and you will receive... If you, who are evil, know how to give to your children what is good, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him." (Luke 11:9, 13)

Here is a short prayer.

**"Dear Heavenly Father, in our present need, please give your Holy Spirit to (me, and/or name of another person or persons). I ask this in the name of Jesus. Praise you, good Father; thank you."**

##### 2. Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Let us be constantly reminded of the presence of the Third Person of the Holy Trinity. He is an advocate who intercedes for us before the Father. He imperceptibly influences human beings and earthly events for the good of all. He defends, leads, guides, and consoles. He brings wisdom and knowledge, counsel and understanding, fortitude, piety, and reverence for God. He is the giver of life, healing, discernment, and many powers and gifts. From him come faith, hope, love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, truthfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Our Lady in Medjugorje has said that whoever possesses him to the full has everything.

Jesus said, "But the Paraclete, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all I have said to you." (John 14:26)

Do not rely solely on human help and advice; always turn to the Holy Spirit and trust him. Jesus said, "When the Spirit of Truth comes, he will lead you to the complete truth... and he will reveal to you the things to come." (John 16:13)

Let us ask the Holy Spirit to teach us all things, about God, about his purposes for us, about life, about truth, about our relationships, about our interests and tasks, about specific problems concerning ourselves, our work, our plans, our spouses, children, friends, relatives, colleagues, strangers...

We can ask our Father to give the Holy Spirit to ourselves in a particular situation, or to our loved ones, friends or enemies, to those who are difficult to get along with. Scripture assures us that he will give willingly, lavishly, and without reserve.

Here is the other short prayer

**“Dear Holy Spirit, please reveal whatever is important to (me, and/or name of another person or persons), and especially at this time, teach (me, us) about what you reveal. I ask this in Jesus’ name. Praise you, Lord. Thank you.”**

If we keep ourselves in a state of grace (especially through Confession and Holy Communion), our prayers are very efficacious.