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J.M.J.

PRIEST'S PRAYER AFTER HEARING CONFESSIONS

Lord Jesus Christ, sweet Lover and Sanctifier of souls,
I pray, by the infusion of the Holy Spirit,
purify my heart from every sinful thought and affection,
and grant me Your infinite tenderness and Mercy
for any fault in carrying out my priestly office,
either by neglect or ignorance.



I commend into Your most lovable Wounds
all of the souls whom You led to repentance
and sanctified with Your most holy Blood,
that You would protect them from all sin
and keep them in reverence and love of You,
make them excel in virtue the rest of their days,
and lead them to eternal life.



You who with the Father
and the Holy Spirit live and reign
for ever and ever. Amen.

PRAYER AFTER ADMINISTERING THE SACRAMENT OF PENANCE. —*Saint Gertrude*

O LORD Jesus Christ, Son of the living God,
receive this my bounden service and ministry
with that transcending love wherewith Thou didst absolve
the Blessed Mary Magdalene, and all sinners
who fled for refuge unto Thee.



And whereinsoever I have failed
in the administration of this holy sacrament
through my negligence or imperfection,
do Thou deign to satisfy for me
and supply all my defects.
I commend to Thy sweetest Heart
all and each of those who have now confessed
their sins to me,
beseeching Thee to keep them evermore,
to preserve them from falling back again to sin,
and after this miserable life to bring them
to Thine everlasting joy. Amen.



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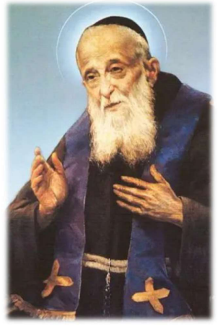
J.M.J.

PRIEST'S PRAYER BEFORE HEARING CONFESSIONS

Grant to me, O Lord, Wisdom, the attendant at Your throne,
that I may know how to judge Your people in justice,
and Your poor ones with equity.
Let me so use the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven
that I may open to no one upon whom they should shut,
nor close them to any for whom they should open.



May my intention be pure, my zeal sincere,
my charity patient, my labor fruitful.
Let me be gentle without weakness,
severe without harshness.
Let me not disdain the poor;
nor fawn upon the rich.
Make me kind that I may attract sinners,
prudent in questioning them,
skillful in directing them.



Grant to me, I pray, skill to lead them back from evil,
zeal in confirming them in good,
diligence in elevating them to better things.
Grant me maturity in answering questions,
correctness in counseling,
light when things are obscure,
wisdom when they are entangled,
victory when they are difficult.
Let me not be detained by useless conversation,
or corrupted by perverse things;
let me save others, and not be lost myself. Amen.

PRAYER TO BE SAID BY A PRIEST BEFORE ADMINISTERING THE SACRAMENT OF PENANCE. —*Saint Gertrude*

O LORD Jesus, I desire and intend to administer
this holy sacrament of penance in union
with that all-transcending love wherewith Thou didst sanctify it,
when, constrained by Thine eager desire of our salvation,
Thou didst institute it and appoint it to be administered
by Thy Apostles and by their successors,
for the glory of Thy holy Name
and the salvation of the whole human race,
beseeching Thee that through Thy unspeakable love,
it may work in me, and in those to whom
I shall now administer it,
increase of salvation and of everlasting blessedness.



May the grace of the Holy Spirit so enlighten,
inflame, and guard my senses and my heart
that I may be enabled to discharge this
my commanded ministry according to Thy adorable Will,
and be fortified and defended
against every assault of temptation. Amen.



The Order for Reconciling Individual Penitents

THE RECEPTION OF THE PENITENT

41. When the penitent comes to confess his (her) sins, the Priest welcomes him (her) with kindness and greets him (her) with friendly words.

42. Then the penitent and, if appropriate, the Priest as well, sign themselves with the Sign of the Cross, saying:



In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Priest invites the penitent to have trust in God, in these or similar words:



May God, who has shone His light
in our hearts
grant that you may truly know
your sins
and [trust in] His Mercy.

The penitent replies: Amen.

THE CONFESSION OF SINS AND
THE ACCEPTANCE OF SATISFACTION

44. Next, the penitent confesses his (her) sins…

THE PRAYER OF THE PENITENT AND THE ABSOLUTION

45. The priest then invites the penitent to express his (her) contrition, which the penitent may do in these or similar words:

O my God, I am sorry and repent with all my heart
for all the wrong I have done
and for the good I have failed to do,
because by sinning I have offended You,
who are all good and worthy to be loved
above all things.



I firmly resolve, with the help of Your grace,
to do penance, to sin no more,
and to avoid the occasions of sin.
Through the merits of the Passion
of our Savior Jesus Christ, Lord, have mercy.



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Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

46. Then the Priest, extending his hands over the penitent's head (or at least extending his right hand), says:



God, the Father of mercies,
through the Death and Resurrection of His Son
has reconciled the world to Himself
and poured out the Holy Spirit
for the forgiveness of sins;
through the ministry of the Church
may God grant you pardon and peace.

AND I ABSOLVE YOU FROM YOUR SINS
IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, ✠
AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

The penitent replies: Amen.

THE PROCLAMATION OF PRAISE OF GOD
AND THE DISMISSAL OF THE PENITENT



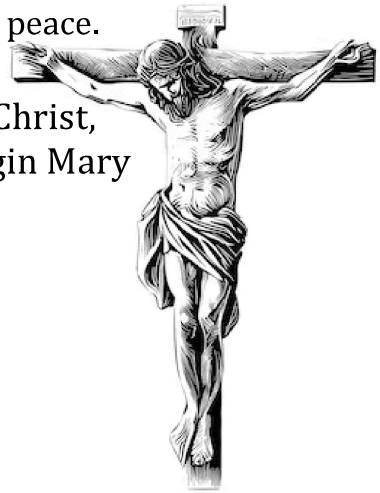
47. After the absolution, the Priest continues:

Give thanks to the Lord for He is good.

The penitent concludes:

For His mercy endures for ever.

Then the Priest dismisses the penitent who has been reconciled, saying:



The Lord has forgiven your sins. Go in peace.

or

May the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary
and of all the Saints,
Whatever good you do
and whatever evil you endure,
be for you a remedy for sin,
an increase of grace,
and the reward of eternal life.
Go in peace.

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Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.