

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We are in union as one, holy, catholic, apostolic Church. Death does not separate us. We ask the saints in heaven to pray for us and we pray for those whose sanctification is completed in purgatory as they are drawn into Heaven.

(Prayer for the dead in scripture) "Turning to supplication, they prayed that the sinful deed might be fully blotted out. The noble Judas exhorted the people to keep themselves free from sin, for they had seen with their own eyes what had happened because of the sin of those who had fallen." 2 MAC 12:42

(God's promise to complete His work in us) "I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus." PH 1:6

And so we pray for those that have died, that God will complete the work He has begun in them and that those, who have salvation by faith, will be purified and be drawn into Heaven.

It is for this reason that we seek to continue a good work begun at Jamboree 2012, "Live Out Loud, Be Doers of the Word and not Just Hearers."

Youth groups had the opportunity to assist Karen Bussey and the Mother Teresa House with their ministry of journeying with those as they leave this life and continue on to their home in Heaven. Part of that journey is to continue to hold these people in prayer. There are two ways teens were offered to this.

Each youth group promises to pray a rosary for a person living out their final days at Mother Teresa House

Each group is asked to have a Mass said for someone who has died at Mother Teresa House. It is Karen Bussey's dream that each person who has died in their care would have a Mass said for them.

Please contact the Mother Teresa House, 517-484-5494, if you are able to do either or both of these. Let us partner with them and journey with those who are moving on in faith. Peace!

Love in Jesus,



Pat Rinker

II. THE COMMUNION OF THE CHURCH OF HEAVEN AND EARTH

954 *The three states of the Church.* "When the Lord comes in glory, and all his angels with him, death will be no more and all things will be subject to him. But at the present time some of his disciples are pilgrims on earth. Others have died and are being purified, while still others are in glory, contemplating 'in full light, God himself triune and one, exactly as he is'".⁴⁹²

All of us, however, in varying degrees and in different ways share in the same charity towards God and our neighbors, and we all sing the one hymn of glory to our God. All, indeed, who are of Christ and who have his Spirit form one Church and in Christ cleave together.⁴⁹³

955 "So it is that the union of the wayfarers with the brethren who sleep in the peace of Christ is in no way interrupted, but on the contrary, according to the constant faith of the Church, this union is reinforced by an exchange of spiritual goods."⁴⁹⁴

956 *The intercession of the saints.* "Being more closely united to Christ, those who dwell in heaven fix the whole Church more firmly in holiness. . . . They do not cease to intercede with the Father for us, as they proffer the merits which they acquired on earth through the one mediator between God and men, Christ Jesus So by their fraternal concern is our weakness greatly helped."⁴⁹⁵

Do not weep, for I shall be more useful to you after my death and I shall help you then more effectively than during my life.⁴⁹⁶

I want to spend my heaven in doing good on earth.⁴⁹⁷

957 *Communion with the saints.* "It is not merely by the title of example that we cherish the memory of those in heaven; we seek, rather, that by this devotion to the exercise of fraternal charity the union of the whole Church in the Spirit may be strengthened. Exactly as Christian communion among our fellow pilgrims brings us closer to Christ, so our communion with the saints joins us to Christ, from whom as from its fountain and head issues all grace, and the life of the People of God itself"⁴⁹⁸:

We worship Christ as God's Son; we love the martyrs as the Lord's disciples and imitators, and rightly so because of their matchless devotion towards their king and master. May we also be their companions and fellow disciples!⁴⁹⁹

958 *Communion with the dead.* "In full consciousness of this communion of the whole Mystical Body of Jesus Christ, the Church in its pilgrim members, from the very earliest days of the Christian religion, has honored with great respect the memory of the dead; and 'because it is a holy and a wholesome thought to pray for the dead that they may be loosed from their sins' she offers her suffrages for them."⁵⁰⁰ Our prayer for them is capable not only of helping them, but also of making their intercession for us effective.

959 *In the one family of God.* "For if we continue to love one another and to join in praising the Most Holy Trinity - all of us who are sons of God and form one family in Christ - we will be faithful to the deepest vocation of the Church."⁵⁰¹