

OUR LADY OF LOURDES

CATHOLIC CHURCH
AND SCHOOL

FEBRUARY 25, 2024

SECOND SUNDAY
OF LENT



The Lenten Penance Service for Our Lady of Lourdes will take place
Wednesday, February 28th at 11am

RECONCILIATION

Available by appointment.
Call: 919-861-4600

MASS TIMES

Sat. 5:00pm

Sun. 9:00am, 11:30am,
1:30pm (Español), 5:00pm

Mon/Tues/Thurs/Fri. 8:30am

Wed. 9:00am Jueves. 6:30pm (Español)

PERPETUAL ADORATION CHAPEL

The Adoration Chapel is open 24/7

For Baptism, Matrimony and
Anointing, please call the
parish office.

PARISH STAFF

Rev. Patrick A. Keane, Pastor
(919) 861-4604

Rev. Dr. Kenneth Oguzie, C.S.Sp.
Parochial Vicar
(919) 861-4608

Jannine LeBlanc, Principal
(919) 861-4623, jleblanc@olls.org

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Adult Faith Formation/Stewardship & Engagement Coordinator
(919) 861-4614, bchampagne@ourladyoflourdescc.org

Deacon Brad Magill
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Deacon Myles Charlesworth
mcharlesworth@ourladyoflourdescc.org

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tmack@ourladyoflourdescc.org

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(919) 861-4600, afaur@ourladyoflourdescc.org

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(919) 861-4634, csperati@ourladyoflourdescc.org

Lynn-Marie Collins, Parish Accountant
(919) 861-4609, finance@ourladyoflourdescc.org

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Marriage Preparation & Wedding Coordinator
(919) 861-4600, marriages@ourladyoflourdescc.org

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bulletin@ourladyoflourdescc.org

OLL Invitations Editor
invitations@ourladyoflourdescc.org

Pastoral Council Finance Council School Advisory

Chair: **Kelli Cross**
(919) 357-2079

Chair: **Jeff Yardley**
(919) 219-0752

Chair: **Reed Murphy**
(919) 624-0298

Barbara McMorran
Jason Lemansky
Kenya Reynard
Rachel Vann
Beth Murphy
Chris Fleming
Jason Pedone
Darren Sessler
Terry Bogan

Ellen Crowley
Kate Duncan
Tom Dunham
Jason Sandner
Curt Williams

Dcn. Byron Champagne
Austin Faur
Cara Fothergill
Cathy Gephart
Anne Holder
Jannine LeBlanc
Chris Morse
Player Murray
Graham Witherspoon

PARISH MEMBERSHIP

Active members of our parish are identified by their generosity of time, talent and treasure.

CALENDAR & MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24 5:00pm - † Sal Cefalu

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25 9:00am - † Pat Steele
11:30am - † Susan Koehler
(Español) 1:30pm - Pro Populo
5:00pm - Mass of Thanksgiving

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26 8:30am - † Patricia Ann Bimler

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27 8:30am - † Gilbert Hensgen
& † Susan Ross

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28 9:00am - † Pat Steele
6:00pm - Maria House

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29 8:30am - Nova Martin
(Español) 6:30pm -

FRIDAY, MARCH 1
FIRST FRIDAY 8:30am - † Eusabia Safernos
& † Daisy DiMond

SATURDAY, MARCH 2
FIRST SATURDAY 5:00pm - † Edward Macko

SUNDAY, MARCH 3 9:00am - † Edward Macko
11:30am - † Susan Koehler
(Español) 1:30pm - Pro Populo
5:00pm - † Sylvia Lawson

Regular Office Hours

Monday - Friday
8:30am - 4pm

Website

ourladyoflourdescc.org

OLL Flocknote

ollraleigh.flocknote.com

Adoration Chapel
oll.weadorehim.com

THE MISSION OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH

is to invite and lead all people to know and love Jesus Christ and to live their Catholic faith through word, sacrament, community, evangelization and service.

MINISTERIO HISPANO

HISPANIC MINISTRY

Oficina Parroquial: 919-861-4600

La Misión de la Parroquia de Nuestra Señora de Lourdes es invitar y dirigir a todas las personas a conocer y amar a Jesucristo a vivir su fe católica a través de la palabra, los sacramentos, la comunidad, la evangelización y el servicio.

Enlace Misas en Vivo por Youtube: (Youtube Live stream)

Para unirse en cualquier momento con las misas celebradas en Nuestra Señora de Lourdes en directo por nuestro canal de Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/c/OurLadyofLourdesCCRaleigh>

Comité Ministerio Hispano

Hispanic Ministry Commtte

Roderico Roblero: (919) 986-5294

Yulisa Díaz: (919) 798-8338

Celeny Arreaga

Edvin Chaj

Fernando Velásquez

Irma Bonilla

Coordinadores Ministerio Hispano

Hispanic Ministry Coordinators

Bautismo (clases):	Alirio Borrayes	919-805-2972
Coros:	Juan Gómez	919-896-0849
Eventos:	Lucrecia López	919-434-9946
Formación Adultos:	Filomeno Méndez	919-559-8314
Grupo Juvenil:	Edilmar López	919-349-5036
Grupo de Mujeres:	Uberlinda V.	919-756-4485
Grupo de Oración:	Reymundo V.	919-298-1587
Lectores:	Irma Bonilla	919-539-2236
M. Extraordinarios:	Jesús Méndez	919-819-7007
Monaguillos:	Dominica Díaz	919-822-4224
Santo Rosario:	Carmela Roblero	919-454-5251
Sacristanes:	Orlando Morales	919-338-4384
Visita Enfermos	Darinel Morales	919-428-8691
Ujieres:	Maribel González	919-345-1943

HORARIO MISAS EN ESPAÑOL

Jueves 6:30 pm

Domingos 1:30 pm

HORARIO MISAS EN INGLES

Lunes, Martes, Jueves y Viernes 8:30 am

Miércoles 9:00 am Sábados 5:00 pm

Domingos 9:00 am, 11:30 am y 5:00 pm

CONFESIONES

Miércoles (Inglés): 12:00 pm, hasta las 12:30 p.m.

Jueves (Español): Después de la misa de las 6:30 pm.

Sábados: (Inglés/Español) 3:00 p.m.

BAUTISMOS PARA NIÑOS MENORES DE 7 AÑOS

Requisitos:

- Papás tienen que estar registrados en nuestra parroquia.
- Presentar copia del acta de nacimiento del niño(a)
- Llenar la forma pre-bautismal.
- Papás y padrinos asistir a la plática pre-bautismal y a la misa.
- Los padrinos no pueden estar viviendo en unión libre.

Para más información, comunicarse con:
Alirio Borrayes al: 919-805-2972

VISITANDO Y LLEVANDO
LA COMUNIÓN A LOS ENFERMOS

Pastoral Care

Si usted tiene algún familiar o conocido de la comunidad que se encuentre enfermo y desea que se le visite, bien sea en la casa donde éste reside u hospital, o se le lleve la Santa Comunión, puede comunicarse con **Darinel Morales** al 919-428-8691.

GRUPO JUVENIL 13 a 17 años

Hispanic Youth Group

El Grupo Juvenil se reúnen todos los viernes a las 7:15 pm en la cafetería de la escuela.

El Grupo Juvenil se reúne para tratar temas diversos que les ayuda en su crecimiento Espiritual, Emocional y desarrollo de liderazgo.

Además de organizar diversas actividades que motive a los jóvenes a participar de la vida y misión de la parroquia.

Para más información, comunicarse con:
Edilmar López al: 919-349-5036

BODAS / MATRIMONIOS

Wedding

¿Está pensando en casarse por la Iglesia?

El primer paso, es hacer una cita con el Padre Patrick Keane (el habla español). 919-861-4600

Para más información, sobre el proceso para contraer matrimonio, por favor comunicarse con:
Roderico Roblero: 919-986-5294

ADORACIÓN PERPETUA ANTE
JESÚS SACRAMENTADO

Nuestra Parroquia de Nuestra Señora de Lourdes tiene una Capilla para la Adoración Perpetua las 24 Horas.

Todos estamos invitados a pasar unos momentos orando en silencio ante la presencia de nuestro Señor Jesús Sacramentado.

GRUPO DE ORACION

Hispanic Prayer Group

Todos los viernes a las 7:15 p.m. en el Salón Fallon Center.

El Grupo de Oración tiene como objetivo fortalecer la fe de sus miembros y acercarlos más a Dios a través de Oración, predicas y alabanzas.

Para más información comunicarse con:
Reymundo Velásquez al: 919-298-1587

GRUPO DE MUJERES

Hispanic Women Group

El Grupo de Mujeres se reúne sábados cada quince días de 8:30 am a 10:00 am en el salón 202 del Fallon Center.

El Grupo de Mujeres tiene como objetivo ayudar a las Mujeres a descubrir y fortalecer su identidad, así mismo incrementar y empoderar su autoestima y por supuesto mejorar su relación con Dios y su relación matrimonial y su rol como madre.

Para más información, comunicarse con:
Uberlinda Velásquez al: 919-756-4485

Clases de Catecismo Para Adultos

Faith Formation Claeses for Adults

Este programa es para personas mayores de 17 años que no estén bautizadas y para personas que solamente les hace falta la Primera Comunión y la Confirmación.

Este programa de formación de adultos es también para personas que deseen convertirse al catolicismo y para aquellos bautizados que deseen aprender un poco más de su fe católica.

Requisitos:

- Llenar la forma de registro.
- Para los que no están bautizados, presentar el acta de nacimiento.
- Para los que le hace falta la primera comunión y confirmación, presentar el certificado de bautismo.

Para más información, comunicarse con:
Filomeno Méndez al: 919-559-8314

EVENTS & PARISH MATTERS

SANCTUARY CANDLES

A 14-day
CHURCH SANCTUARY
CANDLE
will burn
in loving memory of
Ernest Barney

A 14-day
CHAPEL SANCTUARY
CANDLE
will burn
for the intentions of
Dennis & Linda
Redoblado

Pro-Life Corner

"Whether it lasts for a brief moment or for a hundred years, each of our lives is a good and perfect gift. At every stage and in every circumstance, we are held in existence by God's love. ... God invites us to embrace the lives we have been given, for as long as they are given. Every life is worth living."

Statues for Our Saints

Our Lady of Lourdes would like to purchase several 60" statues that will be placed in our Upper Chapel flanking the beautiful new statue of Our Lady and the Child Jesus. We already have commitments for statues of St. Peter, St. Paul, and St. Jude. If anyone would like to donate for the purchase of an entire Statue the following are available:

St. Anthony \$5,100

St. Monica \$4,600

St. Lucy \$4,600

St. Mary Magdalene \$4,600

If anyone would like to donate towards a statue along with multiple donors the following are available:

St. Therese of Lisieux — St. Martin de Porres

Please contact Deacon Brad Magill at the Parish Office for more details.



Lent began on Wednesday, 2/14 and so did the "40 Days for Life" national prayer campaign. This organization has been successful closing down abortion facilities and saving thousands of babies through peaceful prayer vigils around the country. Our Lady of Lourdes Parish has adopted Saturday, March 9 for parishioners to participate.

Please consider praying in front of the abortion facility for an hour or two at: "A Women's Choice" 3305 Drake Circle, Raleigh, between 7am-5pm.

To sign up, please contact Kathy by email: blk4jnm@gmail.com or cell: 919-815-1369.

BIRTHCHOICE: Run for Life

SAVE THE DATE for the 30th Annual Birthchoice Run for Life.

We're looking for runners, sponsors and volunteers for the annual 5k Run and 1 Mile Fun Run on **Saturday, April 13, 2024** at WakeMed Soccer Park in Cary. Visit www.raleighrunforlife.org or www.runnc.com for more info.

If you have any questions, please contact Janelle Buchanan at (214) 497-0756 or Kathy Klein 919-815-1369.

OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY FEBRUARY 18 2024	NEEDED	ACTUAL	DIFFERENCE
YTD OFFERTORY (7/1/23-2/18/24)	\$ 1,047,130	\$ 1,068,203	\$ 21,073

OLL SCHOOL EXPANSION FUND:
BUILDING THE LEGACY

\$ 504,640

MASS ATTENDANCE Weekend of February 18

5pm Saturday: 242

1:30pm Sunday: 435

9am Sunday: 452

5pm Sunday: 286

11:30am Sunday: 348

TOTAL: 1,763



Surviving Divorce: Hope and Healing for the Catholic Family is based on the teachings of the Catholic Church. It is a twelve week program that offers confidential insight during this painful time. Open to anyone seeking comfort, counsel and clarity before or after a divorce.

The cost for registration is \$35.

For more information, please contact:

Debbie Locke

(919) 612-9550

debbie7yankees7@gmail.com

(Please write Surviving Divorce in the subject line.)

Weekly on Thursdays
February 29 - May 30, 2024
7:00pm - 9:00pm
Fallon Center Room 202

To signup, please send an email to Debbie Locke or use the QR code to register through the website.



Please Pray
for our Sick,
Suffering &
Deployed

FRANK BELL
KATHLEEN CHARLESWORTH
MYLES CHARLESWORTH
JANET CHIAVETTA
DANA CASH
ELEANORA CEFALU
ANDREW DILILLO
MARIA HOUSE

BARBARA GRANT
LOUISE GUYTON
CAPTAIN ZACHARY KOUSSENS
ANNETTE LEFEBVRE
LIZ LORSCHIEDER
FRANK JANASIEWICZ
DEACON TOM MACK
EILEEN MACKO

JULIA MEYERS
DON MONROE
KATIE NOWAK
RICHARD POLLARD
IRMA CRUZ-QUINONES
MARY REDMOND
DAN & KAREN RITCHIE
JOELLE ROEHL

FR. BOB & CAROL SCHRIER
ALLISEN SCHULT
NANCY URBEN
ROBBIE WATKINS

The Season of Lent

at Our Lady of Lourdes

FRIDAY FELLOWSHIP

reflect, renew and grow holy

Stations of the Cross
7:00 pm
in the Church Sanctuary
every Friday in Lent

Family Stations

For families with young children.

6:00 pm

March 1 & March 22

Fish Fries

5:00-7:00pm

in the Fallon Center
Sit-down or curbside pickup

March 1
March 22

Preorder Online:

<https://kofc12025.square.site>



WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

EVENING MASS

6:00 pm

every Wednesday in Lent

followed by Soup Suppers
6:30 pm in the Fallon Center

2024 Penance Services

St. Catherine

Tuesday February 27 at 10 a.m.

◆ Our Lady of Lourdes (Bilingual)

Wednesday February 28 at 11 a.m.

St. Teresa of Calcutta

Wednesday February 28 at 6 p.m.

St. Bernadette (Bilingual)

Thursday February 29 at 7 p.m.

St. Michael

Friday March 1 at 10 a.m.

St. Michael

Wednesday March 6 at 7 p.m.

St. Eugene

Monday March 11 at 7 p.m.

St. Luke

Tuesday March 12 at 11 a.m.

St. Catherine of Siena (Bilingual)

Wednesday March 13 at 7 p.m.

St. Francis

Thursday March 14 at 7 p.m.

Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral

Tuesday March 19 at 7 p.m.

St. Raphael (Bilingual)

Wednesday March 20 at 7 p.m.

Walking with
Moms in Need



Come learn more!
**Wednesday,
February 28**
at 10am

in the Fallon Center Lounge

Our Lady of Lourdes has recently joined a nationwide, parish-based effort to increase outreach and support for women who are facing unexpected or challenging pregnancies entitled, Walking with Moms in Need. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops created this program to support women who choose life for their unborn child instead of ending the life through abortion. Most of these women are young, poor and without any support from their families.

Pope Francis has called us to be **“islands of mercy in a sea of indifference.”**

An informational session for those interested in hearing more about the program will be held Wednesday, February 28th at 10 AM in the Fallon Center lounge.

Please contact Kathy Schultz at k1jschultz@gmail.com with any questions.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON PROGRAMS IN THE FALLON CENTER 1pm-3pm

Trivia - Feb 25

Bingo - March 3

We hope to see you there!

EST.  2015

A DAY 4 HIM

GO. SHARE. LOVE.



Join Our Lady of Lourdes Church & School in a day of service.

Serving our community as a community

MARCH 2, 2024



Use the QR Code
to sign up!!

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



SHEEPDOG



FOR MORE INFO: lourdesday4him@gmail.com

<https://aday4him.org/>

THE HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION
OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES PRESENTS



RALEIGH COUNTRY CLUB
DRINKS - HORS D'OEUVRES - LIVE MUSIC - AUCTION

**The North Carolina Opportunity
Scholarship has expanded,
offering all families a more
affordable Catholic education.**

Key changes include removal of the prior public school requirement and no income caps. Families can apply now at any income level to receive awards varying in amounts from \$3,000 to \$7,000 to use towards tuition in our Catholic schools. A loving, Christ-centered education, just became more affordable for all families.



**Re-Enrollment of
Current Students at Our
Lady of Lourdes School is
underway.**

**Enrollment of
new students has begun!**



ON HEAVEN.

SERMON XVI from St. Alphonsus Liguori for the Second Sunday of Lent

" LORD, IT IS GOOD FOR US TO BE HERE." MATT. XVII. 4

In this days gospel we read, that wishing to give his disciples a glimpse of the glory of Paradise, in order to animate them to labour for the divine honour, the Redeemer was transfigured, and allowed them to behold the splendour of his countenance. Ravished with joy and delight, St. Peter exclaimed: "Lord, it is good for us to be here." Lord, let us remain here; let us never more depart from this place; for, the sight of thy beauty consoles us more than all the delights of the earth. Brethren, let us labour during the remainder of our lives to gain heaven. Heaven is so great a good, that, to purchase it for us, Jesus Christ has sacrificed his life on the cross. Be assured that the greatest of all the torments of the damned in hell arise from the thought of having lost heaven through their own fault. The blessings, the delights, the joys, the sweetness of Paradise may be acquired; but they can be described and understood only by those blessed souls that enjoy them. But let us, with the aid of the holy Scripture, explain the little that can be said of them here below.

1. According to the Apostle, no man on this earth, can comprehend the infinite blessings which God has prepared for the souls that love him. "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither hath it entered into the heart of man, what things God hath prepared for them that love him." (1 Cor. ii. 9.) In this life we cannot have an idea of any other pleasures than those which we enjoy by means of the senses. Perhaps we imagine that the beauty of heaven resembles that of a wide extended plain covered with the verdure of spring, interspersed with trees in full bloom, and abounding in birds fluttering about and singing on every side; or, that it is like the beauty of a garden full of fruits and flowers, and surrounded by fountains in continual play. "Oh! what a Paradise," to behold such a plain, or such a garden! But, oh! how much greater are the beauties of heaven! Speaking of Paradise, St. Bernard says: O man, if you wish to understand the blessings of heaven, know that in that happy country there is nothing which can be disagreeable, and everything that you can desire. "Nihil est quod nolis, totum est quod velis." Although there are some things here below which are agreeable to the senses, how many more are there which only torment us? If the light of day is pleasant, the darkness of night is disagreeable: if the spring and the autumn are cheering, the cold of winter and the heat of summer are painful. In addition, we have to endure the pains of sickness, the persecution of men, and the inconveniences of poverty; we must submit to interior troubles, to fears, to temptations of the devil, doubts of conscience, and to the uncertainty of eternal salvation.

2. But, after entering into Paradise, the blest shall have no more sorrows. "God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes." The Lord shall dry up the tears which they have shed in this life. "And death shall be no more, nor mourning, nor crying, nor sorrow, shall be any more, for the former things are passed away. And he that sat on the throne, said: "Behold, I make all things new." (Apoc. xxi. 4, 5.) In Paradise, death and the fear of death are no more: in that place of bliss there are no sorrows, no infirmities, no poverty, no inconveniences, no vicissitudes of day or night, of cold or of heat. In that kingdom there is a continual day, always serene, a continual spring, always blooming. In Paradise there are no persecutions, no envy; for all love each other with tenderness, and each rejoices at the happiness of the others, as if it were his own. There is no more fear of eternal perdition; for the soul confirmed in grace can neither sin nor lose God.

3. "Totum est quod velis." In heaven you have all you can desire. "Behold, I make all things new." There everything is new; new beauties, new delights, new joys. There all our desires shall be satisfied. The sight shall be satiated with beholding the beauty of that city. How delightful to behold a city in which the streets should be of crystal, the houses of silver, the windows of gold, and all adorned with the most beautiful flowers. But, oh! how much more beautiful shall be the city of Paradise! the beauty of the place shall be heightened by the beauty of the inhabitants, who are all clothed in royal robes; for, according to St. Augustine, they are all kings. "Quot cives, tot reges." How delighted to behold Mary, the queen of heaven, who shall appear more beautiful than all the other citizens of Paradise! But, what it must be to behold the beauty of Jesus Christ! St. Teresa once saw one of the hands of Jesus Christ, and was struck with astonishment at the sight of such beauty. The smell shall be satiated with odours, but with the odours of Paradise. The hearing shall be satiated with the harmony of the celestial choirs. St. Francis once heard for a moment an angel playing on a violin, and he almost died through joy. How delightful must it be to hear the saints and angels singing the divine praises! "They shall praise thee for ever and ever." (Ps. lxxxiii. 5.) What must it be to hear Mary praising God! St. Francis de Sales says, that, as the singing of the nightingale in the wood surpasses that of all other birds, so the voice of Mary is far superior to that of all the other saints. In a word, there are in Paradise all the delights which man can desire.

4. But the delights of which we have spoken are the least of the blessings of Paradise. The glory of heaven consists in seeing and loving God face to face. "Totum quod expectamus," says St. Augustine, "duæ syllabæ sunt, Deus." The reward which God promises to us does not consist altogether in the beauty, the harmony, and other advantages of the city of Paradise. God himself, whom the saints are allowed to behold, is, according to the promises made to Abraham, the principal reward of the just in heaven. "I am thy reward exceeding great." (Gen. xv. 1.) St. Augustine asserts, that, were God to show his face to the damned, "Hell would be instantly changed into a Paradise of delights." (Lib. de trip, habit., torn. 9.) And he adds that, were a departed soul allowed the choice of seeing God and suffering the pains of hell, or of being freed from these pains and deprived of the sight of God, "she would prefer to see God, and to endure these torments."

Continued on the next page. →

5. The delights of the soul infinitely surpass all the pleasures of the senses. Even in this life divine love infuses such sweetness into the soul when God communicates himself to her, that the body is raised from the earth. St. Peter of Alcantara once fell into such an ecstasy of love, that, taking hold of a tree, he drew it up from the roots, and raised it with him on high. So great is the sweetness of divine love, that the holy martyrs, in the midst of their torments, felt no pain, but were on the contrary filled with joy. Hence, St. Augustine says that, when St. Lawrence was laid on a red-hot gridiron, the fervour of divine love made him insensible to the burning heat of the fire. "Hoc igne incensus non sentit incendium." Even on sinners who weep for their sins, God bestows consolations which exceed all earthly pleasures. Hence St. Bernard says: "If it be so sweet to weep for thee, what must it be to rejoice in thee!"

6. How great is the sweetness which a soul experiences, when, in the time of prayer, God, by a ray of his own light, shows to her his goodness and his mercies towards her, and particularly the love which Jesus Christ has borne to her in his passion! She feels her heart melting, and as it were dissolved through love. But in this life we do not see God as he really is: we see him as it were in the dark. "We see now through a glass in a dark manner, but then face to face." (1 Cor. xiii. 12.) Here below God is hidden from our view; we can see him only with the eyes of faith: how great shall be our happiness when the veil shall be raised, and we shall be permitted to behold God face to face! We shall then see his beauty, his greatness, his perfection, his amiableness, and his immense love for our souls.

7. "Man knoweth not whether he be worthy of love or hatred." (Eccl. ix. 1.) The fear of not loving God, and of not being loved by him, is the greatest affliction which souls that love God endure on the earth; but, in heaven, the soul is certain that she loves God, and that he loves her; she sees that the Lord embraces her with infinite love, and that this love shall not be dissolved for all eternity. The knowledge of the love which Jesus Christ has shown her in offering himself in sacrifice for her on the cross, and in making himself her food in the sacrament of the altar, shall increase the ardour of her love. She shall also see clearly all the graces which God has bestowed upon her, all the helps which he has given her, to preserve her from falling into sin, and to draw her to his love. She shall see that all the tribulations, the poverty, infirmities, and persecutions which she regards as misfortunes, have all proceeded from love, and have been the means employed by Divine Providence to bring her to glory. She shall see all the lights, loving calls, and mercies which God had granted to her, after she had insulted him by her sins. From the blessed mountain of Paradise she shall see so many souls damned for fewer sins than she had committed, and shall see that she herself is saved and secured against the possibility of ever losing God.

8. The goods of this earth do not satisfy our desires: at first they gratify the senses; but when we become accustomed to them they cease to delight. But the joys of Paradise constantly satiate and content the heart. "I shall be satisfied when thy glory shall appear." (Ps. xvi. 15.) And though they satiate they always appear to be as new as the first time when they were experienced; they are always enjoyed and always desired, always desired and always possessed. "Satiety," says St. Gregory, "accompanies desire." (Lib. 13, Mor., c. xviii.) Thus, the desires of the saints in Paradise do not beget pain, because they are always satisfied; and satiety does not produce disgust, because it is always accompanied with desire. Hence the soul shall be always satiated and always thirsty: she shall be for ever thirsty, and always satiated with delights. The damned are, according to the Apostle, vessels full of wrath and of torments, "vessels of wrath, fitted for destruction." (Rom. ix. 22.) But the just are vessels full of mercy and of joy, so that they have nothing to desire. "They shall be inebriated with the plenty of thy house." (Ps. xxxv. 9.) In beholding the beauty of God, the soul shall be so inflamed and so inebriated with divine love, that she shall remain happily lost in God; for she shall entirely forget herself, and for all eternity shall think only of loving and praising the immense good which she shall possess for ever, without the fear of having it in her power ever to lose it. In this life, holy souls love God; but they cannot love him with all their strength, nor can they always actually love him. St. Thomas teaches, that this perfect love is only given to the citizens of heaven, who love God with their whole heart, and never cease to love him actually. "Ut totum cor hominis semper actualiter in Deum feratur ista est perfectio patriæ" (2, 2 quæst. 44, art. 4, ad. 2.)

9. Justly, then, has St. Augustine said, that to gain the eternal glory of Paradise, we should cheerfully embrace eternal labour. "Pro æterna requie æternus labor subeundus esset." "For nothing" says David, "shalt thou save them." (Ps. Iv. 8.) The saints have done but little to acquire Heaven. So many kings, who have abdicated their thrones and shut themselves up in a cloister; so many holy anchorites, who have confined themselves in a cave; so many martyrs, who have cheerfully submitted to torments to the rack, and to red-hot plates have done but little. "The sufferings of this life are not worthy to be compared to the glory to come." (Rom. viii. 18.) To gain heaven, it would be but little to endure all the pains of this life.

10. Let us, then, brethren, courageously resolve to bear patiently with all the sufferings which shall come upon us during the remaining days of our lives: to secure heaven they are all little and nothing. Rejoice then; for all these pains, sorrows, and persecutions shall, if we are saved, be to us a source of never-ending joys and delights. "Your sorrows shall be turned into joy." (John xvi. 20.) When, then, the crosses of this life afflict us, let us raise our eyes to heaven, and console ourselves with the hope of Paradise. At the end of her life, St. Mary of Egypt was asked, by the Abbot St. Zozimus, how she had been able to live for forty-seven years in the desert where he found her dying. She answered: "With the hope of Paradise." If we be animated with the same hope, we shall not feel the tribulations of this life. Have courage! Let us love God and labour for heaven. There the saint expects us, Mary expects us, Jesus Christ expects us; he holds in his hand a crown to make each of us a king in that eternal kingdom.

