

On Dying Well, Part 4
Practical Considerations

Prayer

O Blessed Joseph, you gave your last breath in the loving embrace of Jesus and Mary. When the seal of death shall close my life, come with Jesus and Mary to aid me. Obtain for me this solace for that hour - to die with their holy arms around me. Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I commend my soul, living and dying, into your sacred arms. Amen.

To do

- Reconcile with those you need to reconcile
- Make sure you've taken care of any obligations you might have
- Make a will
- Fill out an advanced directive
- Arrange for your funeral
- Talk to your family about your wishes

Funeral Hymns

Lady of Knock

Golden Rose, Queen of Ireland
All my cares and troubles cease
As I kneel with love before you
Lady of Knock, my Queen of
Peace

Lead, Kindly Light

Lead, Kindly Light, amidst
th'encircling gloom,
Lead Thou me on!
The night is dark, and I am far
from home,
Lead Thou me on!
Keep Thou my feet; I do not ask
to see
The distant scene; one step
enough for me.

I Heard the Voice of Jesus

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Come unto me and rest;
lay down, O weary one,
lay down your head upon my
breast."
I came to Jesus as I was,
so weary, worn, and sad;
I found in him a resting place,
and he has made me glad.

In Paradisum

May the angels lead you into
paradise; may the martyrs
receive you at your arrival and
lead you to the holy city
Jerusalem. May choirs of angels
receive you and with Lazarus,
once a poor man, may you have
eternal rest.

Be Thou My Vision

Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of
my heart;
Be all else but naught to me,
save that Thou art;
Be Thou my best thought in the
day and the night,
Both waking and sleeping, Thy
presence my light.

J'irai la voir un jour

I'll see her one day
In Heaven, in the Garden
Yes I will see Mary
My joy and my love

I'll see her one day
I'll go away from earth
To the heart of my mother
To rest with no return

Recommendation of a departing soul

Go forth, O Christian soul, from this world, in the name of God the Father Almighty, who created thee; in the name of Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, who suffered for thee; in the name of the Holy Spirit, who was poured forth upon thee; in the name of the glorious and ever blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God; in the name of St. Joseph, chaste Spouse of the same Virgin; in the name of the Angels and Archangels; in the name of the Thrones and Dominations; in the name of the Principalities and Powers; in the name of the heavenly Forces, Cherubim and Seraphim; in the name of the Patriarchs and Prophets; in the name of the holy Apostles and Evangelists; in the name of the holy Martyrs and Confessors; in the name of the holy Monks and Hermits; in the name of the holy Virgins and of all the Saints of God: may they place be this day in peace, and thine abode in holy Sion. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

I commend you, dear Brother (Sister), to the almighty God, and consign you to the care of Him, whose creature you are, that, when you shall have paid the debt of all mankind by death, you may return to thy Maker, Who formed you from the dust of the earth. When, therefore, your soul shall depart from your body, may the resplendent multitude of the angels meet you: may the court of the apostles receive you: may the triumphant army of glorious martyrs come out to welcome you: may the splendid company of confessors clad in their white robes encompass you: may the choir of joyful virgins receive you: and may you meet with a blessed repose in the bosom of the patriarchs. May St. Joseph, the most sweet Patron of the dying, comfort you with a great hope. May Mary, the holy Mother of God, lovingly cast upon you her eyes of mercy. May Jesus Christ appear to you with a mild and joyful countenance, and appoint you a place among those who are to stand before Him for ever. May you be a stranger to all that is punished with darkness, chastised with flames, and condemned to torments. May the most wicked enemy, with all his evil spirits, be forced to give way: may he tremble at your approach in the company of angels, and with confusion fly away into the vast chaos of eternal night. Let God arise and His enemies be dispersed, and let them that hate Him fly before His Face, let them vanish like smoke; and as wax that melts before the fire, so let sinners perish in the sight of God; but may the just rejoice and be happy in His presence. May then all the legions of Hell be confounded and put to shame; and may none of the ministers of Satan dare to stop you in your way. May Christ deliver you from torments, Who was crucified for you. May He deliver you from eternal death, Who vouchsafed to die for you. May Jesus Christ the Son of the living God place you in the ever-verdant lawns of His Paradise; and may He, the true Shepherd, acknowledge you for one of His flock. May He absolve you from all your sins, and place you at His right hand in the midst of His elect. May you see your Redeemer face to face, and standing always in His presence, behold with happy eyes the most clear Truth. And may you be placed among the company of the blessed and enjoy the sweetness of the contemplation of your God for ever. Amen.

Promises of the Divine Mercy

At the hour of their death, I defend as My own glory every soul that will say this chaplet; or when others say it for a dying person, the pardon is the same. When this chaplet is said by the bedside of a dying person, God's anger is placated, unfathomable mercy envelops the soul, and the very depths of My tender mercy are moved for the sake of the sorrowful Passion of My Son. (811)

The souls that say this chaplet will be embraced by My mercy during their lifetime and especially at the hour of their death. (754)

Priests will recommend it to sinners as their last hope of salvation. Even if there were a sinner most hardened, if he were to recite this chaplet only once, he would receive grace from My infinite mercy. (687)

When hardened sinners say it, I will fill their souls with peace, and the hour of their death will be a happy one. (1541)

This evening, a certain young man was dying; he was suffering terribly. For his intention, I began to say the chaplet which the Lord had taught me. I said it all, but the agony continued. I wanted to start the Litany of the Saints, but suddenly I heard the words, **Say the chaplet.** I understood that the soul needed the special help of prayers and great mercy. And so I locked myself in my room and fell prostrate before God and begged for mercy upon that soul. Then I felt the great majesty of God and His great justice. I trembled with fear, but did not stop begging the Lord's mercy for that soul. Then I took the cross off my breast, the crucifix I had received when making my vows, and I put it on the chest of the dying man and said to the Lord, "Jesus, look on this soul with the same love with which You looked on my holocaust on the day of my perpetual vows, and by the power of the promise which You made to me in respect to the dying and those who would invoke Your mercy on them, [grant this man the grace of a happy death]." His suffering then ceased, and he died peacefully. Oh, how much we should pray for the dying! Let us take advantage of mercy while there is still time for mercy. (1035)

When I entered the chapel for a moment, the Lord said to me, **My daughter, help Me to save a certain dying sinner. Say the chaplet that I have taught you for him.** When I began to say the chaplet, I saw the man dying in the midst of terrible torment and struggle. His Guardian Angel was defending him, but he was, as it were, powerless against the enormity of the soul's misery. A multitude of devils was waiting for the soul. But while I was saying the chaplet, I saw Jesus just as He is depicted in the image. The rays which issued from Jesus' Heart enveloped the sick man, and the powers of darkness fled in panic. The sick man peacefully breathed his last. When I came to myself, I understood how very important the chaplet was for the dying. It appeases the anger of God. (1565)

Promises to those who Honor the Sacred Heart

- I will be their secure refuge during life, and above all, in death.
- Sinners will find in my Heart the source and infinite ocean of mercy.
- I promise you in the excessive mercy of my Heart that my all-powerful love will grant to all those who receive Holy Communion on the First Fridays in nine consecutive months the grace of final perseverance; they shall not die in my disgrace, nor without receiving their sacraments. My divine Heart shall be their safe refuge in this last moment.

Promises of the Rosary

- The soul which recommends itself to me by the recitation of the Rosary shall not perish.
- Those who recite my Rosary devoutly, applying themselves to the consideration of its sacred mysteries, shall never be conquered by misfortune. In His justice, God will not chastise them; nor shall they perish by an unprovided death, i.e., be unprepared for heaven. Sinners shall convert. The just shall persevere in grace and become worthy of eternal life.
- Those who have a true devotion to the Rosary shall not die without the sacraments of the Church.
- Those who faithfully recite the Rosary shall have, during their life and at their death, the light of God and the plenitude of His graces. At the moment of death, they shall participate in the merits of the saints in paradise.
- I shall deliver from purgatory those who have been devoted to the Rosary.
- The faithful children of the Rosary shall merit a high degree of glory in heaven.
- I have obtained from my Divine Son that all the advocates of the Rosary shall have for intercessors the entire celestial court during their life and at the hour of their death.

Promises of the Brown Scapular

“While I poured out the sorrows of my soul in the presence of the Lord, I, nothing more than dust and ashes, nonetheless implored my Lady, the Virgin Mary, that since She so desired that we belong to her, She should show that She was our Mother – freeing us from the persecution and giving us some palpable sign of her special consideration and esteem for us, thus confounding those who persecute us.

“I addressed her, saying with tender sighs, ‘O Flower of Carmel, O flowering Vine! Splendor of Heaven, Virgin even after giving birth, o incomparable and admirable Mother and ever Virgin: Give the Carmelites the privilege of thy protection!’ At that moment, the Sovereign Lady appeared to me, escorted by numerous angelic hosts. In her hand she held the habit of the Order (the brown scapular).

“She said to me: ‘Receive, my dearly beloved son, this scapular of thy order, the symbol of my confraternity, and a privilege for you and for all Carmelites. Whosoever dies clothed in this scapular shall not suffer eternal fire... It shall be a sign of salvation, a protection in danger, a pledge of peace and our everlasting alliance.’” – St. Simon of Stock

- Be enrolled in the brown scapular
- Wear the scapular
- Be pure in your state in life
- Say a five decade rosary or the little office of Our Lady daily