

Living the Truth: Chapter 53

Purgatory

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Outline

- 1 What
 - Definition
 - Evidence
 - Fittingness
- 2 About
 - Sufferings
 - Joys
- 3 Helps
 - Who
 - How
 - Why
- 4 Resolutions
 - Avoid Purgatory
 - Conclusions

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Purgatory.

- Effects of sin:
 - guilt,
 - punishment,
 - evil inclinations
 - and bad habits.
- How these are abolished.
- Need of purgatory.

Definition of Purgatory

We can therefore define **Purgatory** as a **place** and a **state** in which the souls of persons who die in **grace** suffer for a time on account of **temporal punishment** due to sins committed after **Baptism**, before they are admitted to **Heaven**.

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How We Know It Exists.

- Our act of divine faith.
- Role of the Church.
- Scripture and Tradition.

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Fittingness of Purgatory.

- Many not good enough for heaven, or bad enough for hell.
- Manifests God's sanctity, justice, and mercy.
- Most consoling and beneficial both to the living and the dead.

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Its Sufferings.

- Pain of loss.
- Other sufferings.
- Material fire.
- Duration.

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Its Joys.

- Their source.
- Their nature.

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Who Can Help The Holy Souls.

- Other souls in purgatory.
- Souls in heaven.
- Persons on earth.

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How We Can Help Them.

- Prayer.
- Good works, Alms-giving. Fasting.
- Our sufferings.
- The Mass.
- Indulgences.
- The Heroic Act.

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Why We Ought to Help Them.

- Charity.
- Justice.
- Self-interest.

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How We Can Avoid Purgatory.

- Martyrdom.
- Baptism.
- Indulgences.
- The Mass.
- The Sacraments.
- The Religious Life.
- A spirit of penance.
- Sufferings.

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Practical Conclusions.

- I should pray for the holy souls every time I pass a cemetery or see a funeral.
- I should remember them whenever I give an alms.
- I should make a daily intention to gain all indulgences I can.
- I should take all the means I have of avoiding purgatory.
- I should be truly devoted to the holy souls, since suffrages offered for me will benefit me in purgatory to the extent that I have helped them during my life.