

## ABOUT PURGATORY::::::::::

"Amen, I say to thee, thou shalt not go out from thence till thou repay the last farthing." (St. Matthew V. 26.)

In the second book of Machabees, Chapter XII, we read that Judas Machabeus, having made a gathering, sent 12 thousand drachms of silver to Jerusalem to be offered for the sins of the dead, thinking well and religiously concerning the resurrection. Not only does Holy Scripture approve of this, but it praises it by saying that it is a holy and wholesome thought. Luther and other heretics took it upon themselves to remove these books from Scripture. Luther made a decision to deny the doctrine concerning Indulgences (because of the abuses surrounding Indulgences during that period in history). With the denial of the doctrines concerning Indulgences, the next step was to deny the doctrine concerning Purgatory. Therefore he removed those Books from Scripture which spoke of the good that would come from praying for the dead. But the Books of Machabees had for more than three centuries been acknowledged as canonical, and there was an express decree of the third Council of Carthage, at which St. Augustine assisted, that gave these Books their proper place amongst Canonical books. Before the Council of Carthage, there were many authors who doubted their authenticity, but, since the decree of this Council, the whole Christian world received them as Canonical Books.

But if we wish for a witness of the apostolical tradition, can we desire for one more satisfactory than that of one of the disciples of Jesus and His Apostles??? It is St. Denis, the Areopagite, who distinctly explains, in the book of the Ecclesiastical Hierarchy, wherein he tells of many things instituted by God in favor of those who have departed from this life in a Christian-like way. He says that the priest should offer up a devout prayer for the dead; he adds that this prayer is to implore the Divine mercy to pardon all the faults of the deceased which he may have committed through human frailty.

The light of reason will tell us that there are three classes of persons in the world. The first are those who are so virtuous and holy that they merit an eternal reward; the second are the wicked, and those who die in a state of mortal sin, and these are justly condemned to everlasting fire; the third class retain the middle state; they have, in truth, performed many good deeds worthy of reward, but at the same time they have committed venial sins, which deserve a temporal punishment at least; thus these sins may not have been sufficiently punished or atoned for in this world, consequently we must come to the conclusion that they will be expiated in the next life. This is the argument of St. Augustine.

The above explanation concerning Purgatory is the TRADITIONAL teaching of the Roman Catholic Church. The teaching concerning Purgatory can be found in all catechetical books prior to 1960. This teaching is no longer in evidence in any of the books of instruction that are being used to teach catholic children. The catholic children of today's "Roman" "Catholic" Church know nothing of Purgatory or Indulgences, among many, many other things. The question is why is this being done?? Are we now following the teaching of Luther and Calvin, etc in the "Roman" "Catholic" Church, or are we following the teaching of the countless Fathers and Doctors Councils of the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church??? Which is Which??