

PURGATORY POSTERS : NO. 2

IT IS THE SAME FIRE IN BOTH HELL & PURGATORY

"The greatest punishment of Purgatory is in the first level above the darkness. The demons can touch it there. There is heat and cold, darkness and confusion, all coming from the punishment of Hell."

(Revelations to St. Bridget)

"The lowest region is filled with a fierce fire, but which is not dark like that of Hell; it is a vast burning sea, throwing forth immense flames."

(Revelations given to St. Frances of Rome).

Pope St. Gregory the Great says that: *"The same fire torments the damned and purifies the elect."*

St. Robert Bellarmine says *"Almost all theologians teach that the damned in Hell and the souls in Purgatory, suffer the action of the same fire."*

St. Catherine of Genoa says: *"As to the suffering, it is equal to that of Hell."*

St. Robert Bellarmine says: It must be held as certain that there is no comparison between the sufferings of this life and the sufferings of Purgatory. St. Thomas Aquinas goes even further; saying that the smallest pain of Purgatory surpasses all the sufferings of this life, no matter how great they are.

St. Francis de Sales pours some comfort on the flames, saying:

"The souls are in a continual union with God ... They are perfectly resigned to His will, or rather their will is so transformed into that of God, that they cannot will but what God wills; so that if Paradise were to be opened to them, they would throw themselves into Hell, rather than appear before God with the stains with which they see themselves disfigured. They purify themselves willingly and lovingly, because such is the Divine good pleasure."

(The Spirit of St. Francis de Sales, chapter 9).

"They wish to be there in the state wherein God pleases, and as long as it shall please Him."

"Their bitterest anguish is soothed by a certain profound peace. It is a kind of Hell as regards the suffering; it is a Paradise as regards the delight infused into their hearts by charity — Charity, stronger than death and more powerful than Hell; Charity, whose lamps are all fire and flame. Happy state! More desirable than it is appalling, because its flames are flames of love and charity."

(The Spirit of St. Francis de Sales, chapter 9).

"The souls in Purgatory rejoice beyond measure, just like a sick man does as he lies in bed and hears a word of comfort from others."

(Revelations to St. Bridget)

"There is no peace to be compared with that of the souls in Purgatory, except that of the saints in paradise, and this peace is ever increased by the inflowing of God into these souls, which increases in proportion as the impediments to it are removed. The rust of sin is the impediment, and this the fire continually consumes."

(St. Catherine of Genoa).