

HEAVEN IS NOT CHEAP!

But we are!

From “Purgatory Explained” by Fr. Schouppe:

“St. Robert Bellarmine says: “There is no doubt that the pains of Purgatory are not limited to ten or twenty years, and that they last in some cases entire centuries ...

Father Mumford, of the Company of Jesus, in his “Treatise on Charity towards the Departed,” goes out on the principle that, according to the words of the Holy Ghost, The just man falls seven times a day (Proverbs 24:16), that is to say, that even those who apply themselves most perfectly to the service of God, in spite of their good-will, commit a great number of faults in the eyes of God. We only have to enter into our own conscience to be convinced of this sad effect of human misery.

EXPIATION OF VENIAL SINS

VENIAL SINS	Sins per year	after 10 yrs	after 20 yrs	after 30 yrs	after 40 yrs	after 50 yrs	after 60 yrs
7 per day	2,555	25,550	51,100	76,650	102,200	127,750	153,300
1 hr. per sin	15 weeks	3 years	6 years	9 years	12 years	15 years	18 years
1 day per sin	7 years	70 years	140 years	210 years	280 years	350 years	420 years
2 days per sin	14 years	140 years	280 years	420 years	560 years	700 years	840 years

VENIAL SINS	Sins per year	after 10 yrs	after 20 yrs	after 30 yrs	after 40 yrs	after 50 yrs	after 60 yrs
20 per day	7,300	73,000	146,000	219,000	292,000	365,000	438,300
1 hr. per sin	43 weeks	8 years	16 years	24 years	32 years	40 years	48 years
1 day per sin	20 years	200 years	400 years	600 years	800 years	1,000 years	1,200 years
2 days per sin	40 years	400 years	800 years	1,200 years	1,600 years	2,000 years	2,400 years

EXPIATION OF MORTAL SINS

MORTAL SINS	Sins per year	after 10 yrs	after 20 yrs	after 30 yrs	after 40 yrs	after 50 yrs	after 60 yrs
1 per month	12	120	240	360	480	600	720
7 yrs. per sin	84 years	840 years	1,680 years	2,520 years	3,360 years	4,200 years	5,040 years

“I say to thee, thou shalt not go out thence, until thou pay the very last penny!” (Luke 12:59).

“The Kingdom of Heaven suffereth violence, and the violent bear it away!” (Matthew 11:12).

O how easy it is to lack respect in prayer, to prefer our ease to the accomplishment of duty, to sin by vanity, by impatience, by sensuality, by uncharitable thoughts and words, by want of conformity to the will of God! The day is long; is it very difficult for even a virtuous person to commit, I do not say seven, but twenty or thirty of this kind of faults and imperfections?

Let us take a moderate estimate, and suppose that you commit about ten faults a day; at the end of 365 days you will have a sum of 3,650 faults. To make our calculations easier, let us reduce it and place it at 3000 per year. At the end of ten years this will amount to 30,000, and at the end of twenty years to 60,000. Let’s say that of these 60,000 faults you have expiated one half by penance and good works, there will still remain 30,000 to be paid for.

Let us continue our hypothesis: You die after these twenty years of virtuous life, and appear before God with a debt of 30,000 faults, which you must pay for in Purgatory. How much time will you need to accomplish this expiation? Suppose, on an average, each fault requires one hour of Purgatory.

This measure is very moderate, judging by the revelations of the saints; but at any rate this will give you a Purgatory of 30,000 hours. Now, do you know how many years these 30,000 hours represent? Three years, three months, and fifteen days. Thus a good Christian who watches over himself, who applies himself to penance and good works, finds himself liable to three years, three months, and fifteen days of Purgatory.

The preceding calculation is based on an estimate which is lenient in the extreme. Now, if you extend the duration of the pain, and, instead of an hour, you take a day for the expiation of a fault, if, instead of having nothing but venial sins, you bring before God a debt resulting from mortal sins, more or less numerous, which you formerly committed, if you assign, on the average, as St. Frances of Rome says, seven years for the expiation of one mortal sin, remitted as to the guilt, who does not see that we arrive at an appalling duration, and that the expiation may easily be prolonged for many years, and even for centuries?

“God hath given him place for penance, and he abuseth it unto pride” (Job 24:23).