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Prayers for Our Times

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THE QUEEN'S WORK
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FOREWORD

IT IS urged on all sides in Catholic circles that the doctrine of the Mystical Body of Christ is the modern appeal of the Church. It is likewise said, and with truth, that the solution to our social problems lies in the doctrine of the Mystical Body of Christ. With the firm conviction that these things are true, we offer this booklet of prayers.

These prayers contain the doctrine of the Mystical Body of Christ as applied to individual and social devotional life. The petitions made in them embody the applications of this beautiful truth to life in modern society.

The prayers are offered in the hope that they may prove useful in bringing the concept of the Mystical Body of Christ more vividly into Catholic consciousness.

They are recommended for the use, not only of individuals, but also of such groups as have for their corporate purpose the advancement of the glory of God through Catholic Social Action.

For a Right Viewpoint

A prayer for a realization of our place in the economy of grace.

We ask you today, Christ, King, to present our petitions to the most august Trinity.

We desire first of all a sense of our union with you, for we really are *together the Body of Christ, and severally His members.*—(I Cor., 12:27.)

Without God we can do nothing, and without your mediation we can get no help from God; for, as you said . . . *No man cometh to the Father but by me.*—(John, 14:6.)

Without us, dear King, your prayers would be incomplete; for, in your own words, you are the vine and we are the branches; and the vine without its branches, how will it bear fruit?

It is the great work of your heavenly kingship to present worthy worship to the Blessed Trinity for us and with us. That is your royal priesthood.

It is part of our petition that God may help us to a consciousness of your royal priesthood and to a realization of our share in it; for we also are *a royal priesthood.*—(I Peter, 2:9.)

It is part of our petition that God may help us to a consciousness of our share in that royal priesthood; for, by a heavenly mystery, we are *made partakers of the divine nature.*—(II Peter, 1:4.)

In all our being and life we wish to realize that our prayers and our acts of worship and service are really always *our* prayers and *our* acts of worship and service. When we say “*our* prayers” and “*our* acts,” that means ours with yours, Divine Majesty.

For you are joined with us in your participation of our humanity, and we are joined with you by our participation in your divinity.

This is our request, and we make it to the Blessed Trinity through you. For you said: *I go to the Father, and whatsoever you shall ask the Father in my name, that will I do.*—(John, 14:13.)

That the Mass May Matter

A prayer for a full realization on the part of all of the great act of corporate worship.

Lord Jesus Christ, King, together with you we offer our reverence and adoration to the Blessed Trinity.

We, the members of your Body, offer up to God the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass every day together with you. For *from the rising of the sun even to the going down . . . there is offered to my name a clean oblation.*—(Mal., 1:11.)

This clean oblation is you. Together with you we offer you as a sacrifice worthy of God.

Lord Jesus Christ, King, in offering up your Body you offer us up also. For we are of your Body. We offer ourselves and yourself as one self to the praise, reverence and service of our Father who is in heaven.

Lord Jesus Christ, King, it is your church, your Body, with you as its Head and us as its members, that offers up each Holy Sacrifice of that daily series of Masses that make up man's only adequate worship of God.

Lord Jesus Christ, King, this daily, hourly, continuous coöperation between

us all in the Mass is the greatest thing we can do. For your presence with us makes our act of infinite value, and our presence with you makes your act ours.

Lord Jesus Christ, King, in view of these facts we beg our Father, we beg through you our Head, we beg through you our Mediator, the great favor of giving us help from on high to realize that every Holy Sacrifice throughout the world is offered up by us — not by me alone, not by priests alone, not by the various nations alone who greet the gradual progress of dawn with the celebration of our Sacred Mysteries — no, not by any or all of them alone, but by all of them and you. In other words by Us.

Lord Jesus Christ, King, if we can but have this favor, we shall have a new life. For such an idea cannot but reform our selfish spirituality. Such an idea of union of one with all and all with one is inconsistent with the notion of “I alone with Christ,” with the spirit of discouragement, with the feeling of our personal independence of all mankind.

Lord Jesus Christ, King, may we soon come to realize, through our knowledge of what the Mass really is, that in our kingdom there is no “rugged individ-

ualism," no "survival of the fittest," none of the other cruel, cold doctrines of the pagan world, but only the triumph of love and union in the sweetest, loveliest, most beautiful law this world has ever known: *Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with thy whole heart and with thy whole soul and with all thy strength and with all thy mind; and thy neighbor as thyself.*—(Luke, 10:27.)

Lord Jesus Christ, King, ask for us the help we need to train ourselves to obey that law, not merely because it is a law, but because of your words: *As long as you did it to one of these my least brethren, you did it to me.*—(Matt., 25:40.)

Lord Jesus Christ, King, may the participation of *all* of us daily in *all* the Masses in all the world be so real to us that it will have these good effects on our souls; and may it finally dawn on us that *together we are your Body and severally your members.*

Against Communism

*A prayer for protection against the forces
at work for the destruction of our country.*

O Royal Majesty, Christ our King, the idea of your Mystical Body is so beautiful and so appealing in the grandeur of its truth that our enemies, in fear of our success, are bringing before our poor suffering members a cheap substitute.

O Christ our King, the powers of darkness have risen up against the great sin that they themselves have created, the sin of human selfishness that made of thy members "classes." The powers of darkness have raised the standard of class war.

O Royal Majesty, our adversaries are doing this thing in the name of such catchwords as the "dictatorship of the proletariat" and "Up, mechanized marionettes! Class War!" They attract the poor and the outcast by promises of "a new era," a "new distribution of wealth."

O Christ our King, they have much truth on their side. The poor are crushed by a cruel system of present-day slavery and want. The rich and powerful indulge their greed and avarice to unbelievable extents of extortion and oppres-

sion. Truly it is within the heart of human nature to rebel against it all.

O Royal Majesty, you are our intercessor, our mediator with the Blessed Trinity. You are the Head of the Body of which we are the members. Together let us ask Our Heavenly Father, whose benevolent providence watches and measures all things that this worthy rebellion may not be in the name of the cruel tyranny of communism.

O Christ our King, ask that Divine Providence for us and with us not to let the minions of the Third Internationale succeed in their efforts to confuse the minds of our poor and oppressed with their failure to distinguish between the cruelty of capitalism and the social justice of our Mystical Body, with their failure to distinguish between the passion of lust for gold and the passion of love for God and man.

O Royal Majesty, intercede for this miserable race which seems so headed for communism. In your mercy prevent us all from falling into the error of believing that relief comes from a destruction of those inalienable rights which you have given to man. Keep men from denying your existence because man has violated your laws. Keep

them from communism's divorce, from communism's abortion and birth control; keep them from communism's mass murder of the ill, the lame, and the blind; save them from communism's tyranny and depression.

O Christ King, let us have the good offices of your mediatorship in securing from God the favor that the powers of darkness be set at nought in this new trick they are playing on man. For it is very clever: They have tempted man to be cruel to man, and man has fallen; then they have made the best of "man's inhumanity to man" to plunge man into a slavery that sacrifices life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness for a godless, regimented, moronic existence called communism.

O Royal Majesty, Christ our King, through you and with you and in you, we, your Mystical Body, present this petition to the Court of Heaven that communism may fail.

Against Capitalism

A prayer that greed may be checked.

O Carpenter of Nazareth, intercede for us before your Heavenly Father, for we are afflicted greatly in this world of evil men for whom you refused to pray—evil men who *devour the houses of widows*.—(*Matt., 23:14.*) Those that are greedy for gain have troubled your house.

O Son of Joseph, our Head and our Master, men to whom God has given riches and substance and honor have an evil eye toward evil things. They have drained your poor suffering members of all their little goods. They have reached into the hovels of the poor and laid their cupboards bare. And now they plan more pillage.

O Carpenter of Nazareth, intercede for us, for we are hard pressed. Evil men join house to house and lay field to field even to the ends of the world. Where shall your poor dwell in the midst of the earth? He that hideth up corn is the first among us, and the moneychangers need your scourge again.

O Son of Joseph, all have turned aside into their own way, everyone after his own gain, from the first even to the

last. From the least even to the greatest all are given to covetousness, and from the prophet even to the priest all are guilty of deceit.

O Carpenter of Nazareth, we come to our Intercessor to ask for intercession. Of old your Father said many things. We ask that in His mercy He may send relief to the poor stricken members who must pick the alleys and the city dumps for the daily bread that has been snatched by those who have too much and scheme to have more.

Your Father has said: *Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor railers, nor extortioners shall possess the kingdom of God.*—(I Cor., 6:10.) Lord, is “kingdom of God” said only of heaven?

O Son of Joseph, your Father has said: *He that hideth up corn shall be cursed among the people; but a blessing upon them that sell.*—(Proverbs, 11:26.)

O Carpenter of Nazareth, it was not in vain that you yourself said: *Woe to you that are rich. For you have your consolation.*—(Luke, 6:24.)

O Son of Mary, in the name of the poverty in which you lived because of capitalism, in the name of the tears you

shed over the capitalism of Jerusalem, in the name of the sadness that filled your heart when a certain young man would not give his capital to the poor, we ask that you intercede for us.

O Carpenter of Nazareth, whatever you ask of the Heavenly Father, that will He give you. Ask, then, we beg you with that sweet sense of dependence of the members on the Head:

That those who create want in the midst of plenty may see the folly of their ways.

That those who labor to bring relief to your poor suffering members may succeed in their task.

That you give the victory to the poor and the injured, and cast down the oppressors and extortioners into the humility of penitence.

That thus there may be at last one Flock and one Shepherd; one Body with one Head in a perfect union of intention and love with the Blessed Trinity—forever.

For Catholic Action

A prayer that all classes may respond to the call of the Holy Father.

O God, we ask that you strengthen our Holy Father in the great work that he has undertaken. *Through Christ Our Lord.*

O God, we ask that Catholics throughout the world may respond to his call for Catholic Action. *Through Christ Our Lord.*

O God, we ask that Catholic men may give physical and intellectual fighting instincts to the cause of the Vicar of Christ. *Through Christ Our Lord.*

O God, we ask that Catholic women may give the tenderness of their beautiful womanhood to the cause of the Church. *Through Christ Our Lord.*

O God, we ask that Catholic boys may respond to the idealism of His Holiness, and devote the energies of their growing manhood to training for Catholic Action. *Through Christ Our Lord.*

O God, we ask that Catholic girls may devote the sacredness of their blossoming womanhood to works that bring down grace to the Mystical Body. *Through Christ Our Lord.*

O God, we ask that the whole Catholic world may become conscious of the Christ-life within them and devote themselves to interior Catholic Action in personal holiness. *Through Christ Our Lord.*

O God, we ask that all the Catholics of the world may be filled with the desire of giving freely what they have freely received, in order that by their good example, by their personal sacrifice and by their self-consecration the Body of Christ may be brought to its full stature. *Through Christ Our Lord.*

O God, we ask that the Godless world may pause, see, and accept the solution of all its problems that lies in the sublime doctrine of the Mystical Body. *Through Christ Our Lord.*

O God, we ask that this great good may be accomplished in perfect peace, harmony and coöperation between the laity and the hierarchy, as is becoming to an organization of which all are members and Christ is Head. *Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.*

We Thank You

*A prayer of gratitude for our union
with Christ.*

O God, you have sent your Son to earth to buy us back from darkness; and for this, through Christ:

We thank you.

O God, through Christ you have made us one with Christ; and for this, through Christ:

We thank you.

O God, you have joined our humility with that of Jesus in his great mysteries of self-effacement; and for this, through Christ:

We thank you.

O God, you have made our poverty one with the poverty of the manger and the innumerable deprivations of the Savior Jesus; and for this, through Christ:

We thank you.

O God, you have joined our recollection to that of the Master in the solitude of the forty days, to that of the three hours on the cross; and for this, through Christ:

We thank you.

O God, you have directed the brook of our zeal for Catholic Action into the mighty river of devotion to Jesus; and for this, through Christ:

We thank you.

O God, you regard every act of a Christian as an act of Christ; and for this, through Christ:

We thank you.

O God, you accept our individual sufferings to complete the sufferings of Christ; and for this, through Christ:

We thank you.

O God, you have given us the Truth, and the Way, and the Life; and for this, through Christ:

We thank you.

For International Peace

A prayer for protection from those who would bring on war and for assistance for those who would prevent it.

O God, you are the Father of all of us. We are your children by adoption in Jesus Christ, your Son by birth.

O God, we ask you, in the name of Jesus Christ, to keep us from that evil scourge called war.

O God, we ask you—we, all the nations of the world—ask you to preserve us from the evil designs of wicked men who, for the sake of their own profit, wish to draw down upon us the sorrows of war.

O God, we ask you, the God of peace, in the name of Jesus Christ, whose greeting was “Peace,” to convert those “merchandisers in murder,” as one of your holy priests called them, and lead them to a sense of the sonship which is theirs and the brotherhood which is ours.

O God, only you, who know all things, and your Son, whose Sacred Heart was so crushed by all these things in the agony of Gethsemane, can know the sorrows of the past world war.

O God, only you, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, can foresee what horrors

the next war will bring and what anguish the Mystical Body of Christ will be made to endure.

O God, if the chalice of war may pass from us, in the name of your son Jesus Christ let it pass; but if it may not pass, thy will be done.

O God, pour forth your grace into the hearts of men that they may see the futility of the slaughter of war and in their love for the members of the Mystical Body may rise up in rebellion against those scheming, heartless men whose greed for gold has taken away their minds.

O God, pour forth your light into the minds of nations that all the citizens of the world may keep the beautiful purity of a glowing patriotism free from the defiling hatred that ambitious politicians and plotting armorers would smear upon it.

O God, show the leaders of the world the folly of crushing the poor with taxes in order to keep and increase the armies and navies of the world.

O God, we beg you, in the name of Jesus Christ, to bring to an end the evils which that horrible disruption of Chris-

tendom has brought upon us; bring to an end this adoration of gold, this oppression of the poor, this abomination of war.

O God, through Jesus Christ, your Son, we beg you to aid the Vicar of Christ, whose labor of love it is that the labor of hate may cease.

O Blessed Trinity, we beg you through our Mediator and the Head of our Mystical Body the Church to look with mercy upon an undeserving human race and to assist those who promote peace and to hinder those whose interest is war.

O Eternal Father, we ask you through your Son to fill the world with the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Peace, that His work of sanctification may go on and that the Body of Christ may be brought to its full stature in a development of harmony and union.

For a Catholic Social Order

A prayer that the plans put forth by the Popes may find accomplishment.

O God, you are the Father and Master of all mankind. We your children ask with and through your Son, our Brother and our Mediator:

That mankind may come to a consciousness of the Natural and Divine Law and submit themselves to it.

That mankind may come to see the family as a true society, with rights and duties peculiar to itself which are quite independent of the state.

That mankind may come to see the true duty of the state to the family and may resist the dangerous encroachments that the state tends to make upon the family.

That mankind may see mutual obligations which the common lot of hardship imposes upon them.

That mankind may see values in the light of eternity; money in its proper place, and in poverty no disgrace, virtue as man's true worth.

That Catholic precepts may prevail and that the respective classes may not only be united in the bonds of friendship, but also in those of brotherly love.

That mankind may submit to the agencies which Jesus Christ has given to the Church to bring men to act from a motive of duty, to control their passions and appetites, to love God and their fellow men with a great and unselfish love and to break down courageously every barrier that blocks the way to virtue.

That mankind may recognize, as regards the state, the interests of all, whether high or low, to be equal, and the end of the state to be the common welfare—to protect particularly the rights of the poor.

That mankind may come to see its spiritual interests as its most important interests and to arrange all material conditions in a manner that will be conducive to the things of the spirit.

That mankind may put an end to the oppression of women and children in the mines and factories of the land, that a saving wage may be maintained, and the proper distribution of wealth be managed.

That mankind may come to recognize the right of association in trade unions, the value of religious societies, the danger of evil societies.

That your blessing, O God, descend upon those who are striving, by various undertakings and endeavors, to better the condition of the working class by rightful means.

That mankind may see in Catholic Social Action the exemplar of good organization, with broad foundations, that will bring innumerable social benefits to the nations of the world.

O God, you are the Father and Master of all mankind. We your children ask, with and through your Son, our Brother and Mediator, that you lend a favorable ear to our petitions and bring men to realize that *charity is patient, is kind, seeketh not her own . . . suffereth all things . . . endureth all things.*

(A "Rerum Novarum" Prayer.)

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