

CHAPTER 10

THE THREE FINAL ACTS OF THE SECOND PART

- 229** After making the three acts which concern ourselves
there are still three more to be made;
the first is an act of union with Our Lord;
the second is an act of petition of God;
and the third is an act of invocation to the Saints
for whom we have a particular devotion.

#1 ACT OF UNION WITH OUR LORD

- 230** We make an act of union with Our Lord
by uniting ourselves interiorly
with His spirit in this mystery,
and with the interior dispositions
He had in accomplishing it.
We should ask Him for a share
in this spirit
and in these dispositions,
and beg Him earnestly to give us the grace to acquire
the spirit of this mystery
and to practice the virtues in that mystery.

- 231** Our Lord became a child of man Jn 3,5-7;1,12
to merit for us the grace to be regenerated
in spirit 1 Jn 3,1-3
and to become in Him children of God Gal 4,5
through adoption and by the grace which
is in Jesus Christ Jn 1,17
and which He came to bestow on man,
as St. John says.
It is, then, entirely appropriate to unite ourselves with
Jesus Christ in His birth
so as to receive and share His Spirit,
which gives us access to the Father
as His adopted children in His only Son; Gal 4,5-6
and we should pray to Our Lord to unite us to His own dispositions. cf Rom 8,14-17

- 232** This we can do by an act of union, made after this fashion:
- a. I unite myself to Thee, divine Jesus, infant God,
with an ardent desire to share
in the spirit of Thy holy infancy,

in Thy dispositions
and in the grace which Thou has merited for me
in the mystery of Thy Holy birth.

b. I most humble beg Thee, loving child Jesus,
to draw me into Thy divine heart;
to impart to me Thy Holy Spirit
and to endow me with the disposition that Thou didst
have
in the stable at Bethlehem,
lying in the crib on hay and
straw
(or, in the arms of Thy holy mother).

cf Lk 2,8

c. I earnestly beg Thee
to impart to me the sentiments and affections
of humility, docility, submission, and obedience

cf Heb 1-.5-7;5,7-8

that Thou didst entertain towards Thy heavenly
Father,
those of Thy most holy mother, and those of Thy
foster father,
the great St. Joseph.

Ph 2,8

cf Lk 2,51

By Thy grace, Lord, may I share
in these sentiments and dispositions,
towards those
who have a right to my obedience.

May I even be prepared and disposed
to submit with simplicity
to all sorts of persons,
in imitation of Thee.

d. Grant me, I ask Thee, Lord,
that I share fully
in Thy holy sentiments
for poverty, mortification, and suffering.
May I love these and practice them with views of faith,
in union with Thy Spirit and Thine own dispositions,
and by the action and the effect
of Thy holy grace which is at work in me.
I promise to cooperate with it
as far as possible.

e. Be my strong Helper, I beg Thee, my good Savior,
since I am so weak.

May I become in Thee a new creature,

2 Co 5,17

may I no longer live or act
like a sinful child of man,
but rather as a child of God,
through Thee regenerated and adopted by the
eternal Father.

cf Rom 6,11-14
Gal 2,20
Gal 4,5
cf Rom 8,14-17

f. Impress Thine image on me, Lord, as a seal does in wax.
May I be in Thee and Thou in me,
in all truth and power.

cf. Jn 15,5

May I not live any longer in myself and of myself, but in
Thee and by Thee,
so that
it may be Thou who livest and actest in me.

Gal 2,20

g. Give me, Lord, Thy spirit of childhood
which will enable me to cry out to God with
confidence
in union with Thee:
Abba! my Father!

cf. Jn 3,34
Rom 5,5
Rom 8,15

#2 ACT OF PETITION

233 When this act of union with Our Lord in a mystery
is properly made in an interior manner,
and once we are interiorly and intimately united with
Him,
we are then well prepared
to present ourselves before God the Father with
filial confidence,
and to obtain from Him
the spirit of the mystery
and all the graces which Our Lord there merited
for us.

Eph 3,12

234 This is why
the next act refers to the eternal Father.
In it we humbly ask for the spirit of the mystery;
we beg God with confidence to grant it to us
through Our Lord, and in union with Him;
for it is in Him alone and by His Spirit
that we dare to make this request and hope to
be heard.

cf Eph 3,12; Lk 11,13
Jn 16,64-26;15,16

235 This can be done in the following manner:

a. Eternal Father, Lord of heaven and earth,

cf Act 17,24

Thou didst show Thy goodness to men Mt 11,25
by sending them Thine only Son,
so that those who believe in Him and accept Him
may not perish, cf Rm 8,14,17
but by becoming Thy adoptive children Gal 4,5
in Jesus Christ Thy Son,
may have eternal life. Jn 3,16

b. I most humbly beseech Thee
deign
to grant the spirit of this mystery of the birth
of Thy beloved Son
who for love of us
deigned to become an infant;
and for the love of Him I implore Thee to give me
the heart and mind of a child,
so that I may love Thee
as my true and only Father,
that I may fear and honor Thee,
that I may obey Thee
as a good child obeys its father.

c. To this end, give me, I beg Thee, O my God,
an abundant outpouring
of the spirit and the grace of Thy son.
Renew me in Him, O my God,
in His spirit and grace.

cf. Jn 3,5-7

Give me a spirit of submission and obedience
in Thy regard,
and in that of those who take Thy place on earth.

d. Grant I beg thee, that I may despise
the perishable riches of the earth
and the vain honors of the world,
and the fleeting pleasures of this life cf Lk 6,24-26
for they bring with them eternal woe;
and since Thy son
who turned away from them all
has taught me to seek other benefits
more fitting with my dignity as a child of
God,

cf Jn 1,12

which He came to bestow upon me.
Following His example, O Lord, may I embrace
poverty,
contempt,
and suffering in this life

as a means to procure for me eternal
beatitude.

cf Lk 6,24-26

e. I earnestly beg Thee, O my Father and my God,
to grant me this
in union with Our Lord and through Our
Lord,

cf Eph 3,12; Lk 11,13;
Jn 16,24-26;15,16

in whom alone, and by whose spirit
I dare ask and hope to obtain
from Thy fatherly goodness,
For, it is impossible that,
says St. Paul,
having given us Thy Son,
who is thy truly Beloved,
Thou has not given us in Him and through
Him all that is good.

Rom 8,32

#3 ACT OF INVOCATION OF THE SAINTS

236 The last act of the second part
is an act of invocation of the saints to whom we have a
special devotion.

It is most advantageous to pray to the saints,
to ask them to help us by their intercession,
for, as a saint said,
God often grants to their prayers
what He refuses to ours
because of the imperfections so often found in the
latter.

237 It is true that
when the act of union with Our Lord has been well made,
we should feel confident that we shall obtain from the eternal
Father

whatever we ask of Him
in the name of His most dear Son and in
union with Him.

cf Eph 3,12; Lk 11,13;

Jn 15,16;16,24-26

Still, since we cannot be sure
of having made this act of union and the act of
petition with the required perfection,
it is well to have recourse to the saints,
so that by the help of their prayers and intercession,
which are always agreeable to God whose friends they
are,
we may obtain what we seek;
not to mention, as the Church observes,

that the superabundant merits of the saints
are a great help to us in the sight of God.

238 We make an act of invocation of the Saints to whom we have
a special devotion,
particularly
the ones who were present at the mystery
which we have been considering,
or who took part in it,
by asking them to plead for us before God,
and to ask Him to give us the spirit of the
mystery;
we thus prove to them the great confidence we have in their
intercession.

239 The Most Blessed Virgin should always be invoked in the
first place,
even though she may not have actually taken part in the
mystery
which we are considering,
because she is our Mother, our Advocate and our Mediatrix
before her Son.
Because she loves us;
because she has great power before God;
and because she desires our welfare
more than any other saint and even all of the Saints.

240 Saint Joseph should also be invoked,
as the Patron and Protector of our Society,
since he has such great influence with God.

241 In the same way our holy Guardian Angel and our holy Patrons of
baptism and religious profession
will take interest in us in a special way,
since we have been placed under their special
protection, and recommended to their care by God.

242 In the mystery of Our Lord's nativity
the Most Blessed Virgin took part
by bringing Him into the world.
St. Joseph cared for Him
as his foster father.

cf Lk 2,7

cf Lk 3,23;4,22

The angels were present
and adored Him, glorifying God
and revealing Christ's birth to the shepherds who then
came to worship Him.

243 The act of invocation may be made as follows:

- a. Most blessed Virgin, most worthy mother of God,
I very humbly beg thee,
by the infinite dignity which is thine
as the mother of the Messiah, the true God,
I beg of you
by thy cooperation
in the sacred mystery of His nativity,
since while yet a virgin thou didst give Him birth,
grant me thy powerful protection
in the sight of thy beloved Son
and His eternal Father,
so that I may receive the spirit of this mystery.
- b. I have great confidence
that thy motherly solicitude
will grant me this favor,
and that out of regard for thee,
God will bestow on me, in the abundance of His
mercy, all things.

244 Invocation of St. Joseph

- a. Great Saint Joseph, my glorious and very loving father,
I beg thee very humbly,
by that most tender and most respectful love
with which thou didst receive in thine arms
the incarnate Word, the Son of
God made man, cf Jn 1,14; Lk 3,24;4,22
as thy foster Son,
to join thy prayers to those of the Most Blessed Virgin,
thy most dear spouse and my exalted
Queen, cf Lk 1,27
and to pray to Our Lord and to His heavenly Father
to grant me the spirit of this mystery of salvation
in all the fullness which,
by God's grace and mercy,
I am capable of receiving. cf Eph 1,1-23
- b. I have great confidence that God will grant me
everything which thou wilt ask for me,
and I shall remain to thee and to thy holy spouse
eternally grateful for all these favors.

245 Invocation of the angels and shepherds

a. Holy angels of God,
you were present at the birth of the infant Jesus,
to adore Him and pay Him homage.

b. I beg of you
by the joy with which
you gave glory to God on high
and to His incarnate son, Lk 2,14
and in inviting men
to go and pay Him their due homage
when you announced to them the good
news Lk 2,16-17
of His blessed birth.
To ask God and His beloved Son cf Mt 3,17;17,5
to grant me the favor of sharing
in the spirit and the grace of this mystery,
according to the multitude of Their
mercies. cf Eph 1,1-23

c. Holy shepherds, who were privileged
to be the first to see the Savior of the
world, Lk 2,17
to witness His admirable virtues
and to enjoy the peace and the grace
which He came on earth to bring
to men of good will, Lk 2,14

d. I beg you, pray to Our Lord
to grant me in His mercy a share
in this peace and in that grace,
so that with their help
I may come to share in the spirit of this mystery
and to practice the virtues
of which this divine Savior has given me the
example.

246 Invocation of our Guardian Angels and saintly patrons, etc.

a. Holy angel of God, my very charitable guardian,
and you, great Saints N....my glorious patrons,
I beg you
by your concern you have for me
and by the love you have
for God and for His Son Jesus Christ,
our loving Savior,
to intercede with the divine goodness
to obtain for me

the spirit of this mystery,
and the grace faithfully to put into practice
the resolutions which I made.

b. I have great confidence
in your charity and in your intercessions,
for I look upon you and honor you
as my fathers and protectors in God's sight.

c. Of all of you, O blessed angels and saints of God,
I beg the same favor
for the love of God
and the salvation of my soul.