

CATHOLIC PRAYERS & DEVOTIONS



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BRIEF STATEMENT OF CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE

THE CORE OF CHRISTIAN FAITH

Yes, Jesus Christ is our Teacher and Lord. His life and words draw men and women of every age and nation to His side. No other great figure of history approaches what He said and did.

Born poor, His childhood spent in an obscure Galilaean village, He suddenly emerged for a few dazzling years to teach and work wonders in the Jewish world of His time.

He was opposed by those in power who brought Him to trial and crucified Him. After three days He rose from the dead.

Those who were witnesses to His Resurrection told the good news to others. They were convinced He was the Son of God who came to bring new life and hope to a world lost in darkness. He would bring a new kingdom, a new order, based on justice and love.

Jesus promised to remain always with His Church. Receiving the Holy Spirit, His



Blessed are the single-hearted:
for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers: they shall
be called sons of God.

Blessed are those persecuted for holiness'
sake: the reign of God is theirs.

THE WORKS OF MERCY

Jesus told us to love one another as He loved us. His own life revealed His loving concern and compassion for the poor, the sick, and the troubled. The leper isolated from society, the blind man alone in his darkness, the frightened woman taken in adultery, the thief condemned to a cross found in Him care, support, and strength. He advised those who would follow Him to make their love as practical and selfless as His own. The corporal and spiritual works of mercy are guidelines for Christian love.

PRAYER BEFORE HOLY COMMUNION

Come, O blessed Savior, and nourish
my soul with heavenly Food,
the Food which contains
every sweetness and every delight.

Come, Bread of Angels,
and satisfy the hunger of my soul.

Come, glowing Furnace of Charity,
and enkindle in my heart
the flame of divine love.

Come, Light of the World,
and enlighten the darkness
of my mind.

Come, King of Kings, and
make me obedient to Your holy will.

Come, loving Savior,
and make me meek and humble.

Come, Friend of the Sick,
and heal the infirmities of my body
and the weakness of my soul.

Come Good Shepherd,
my God and my All,
and take me to Yourself.

PRAYER TO THE VIRGIN MARY

Mother of mercy and love,
blessed Virgin Mary,
I am poor and unworthy
and I turn to you in confidence
and love.

You stood by your Son
as he hung dying on the cross.

Stand also by me, and by all
who are offering Mass today here and
throughout the entire Church.

Help us to offer a perfect and
acceptable sacrifice in the sight of
the holy and undivided Trinity,
our most high God.
Amen.

PRAYER OF ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

Almighty and ever-living God,
I approach the sacrament of your
only-begotten Son,
our Lord Jesus Christ.

I come sick to the doctor of life, unclean
to the fountain of mercy, blind to the