

# PURGATORIAL SOCIETY

The Purgatorial Society was founded in the 1780's and was erected to offer a way for the living to pray for the deceased members of their families and be assured that at least three masses would be offered for themselves when they die.

One joins the Society by submitting one's name and paying stipends of \$10.00 for each mass to be offered. In joining the Society one is assured that upon one's death at least three masses will be offered for the repose on one's soul. The money from the stipend is kept in a special account through the parish office and a list of the names of those who are members are also kept in the office. Upon one's death three masses are offered as soon as possible for the repose of one's soul. The pastor has the special responsibility to insure that masses are offered for the member's who have died as soon as possible after their death.

Given the fact that whole families are fallen away from the faith this Society seeks a way to insure that even if no one from the family requests masses to be offered the deceased person will be assured that at least three masses will indeed be offered. Of course, more masses could also be offered depending upon the wishes of the person while he or she was alive and depending on the stipends that were given for the purpose of masses to be offered.

In November we remember in a special way the poor souls in Purgatory and so it is appropriate that in this month we also think about our own life and seek to make sure that prayers will be offered for the repose of our own soul after our death.

Three masses a year will be offered for the living members of the Society. An envelope marked "Purgatorial Society" with \$30.00 in the collection and include your name so that you can be placed on the list of members.

