

From "The Glories of Mary" by St. Alphonsus Liguori  
**Conversion on a deathbed**

• A few days before the feast of the Annunciation, a certain priest at Strasburg was asked to visit a gentleman who was mortally ill. The priest made a visit, but noticed at once, during his conversation, that the dying man was one who had long since lost his faith and filled his mind with the incongruities of what he considered a more modern philosophy.

• After the priest had exhausted all his resources and had made no impression upon the closed heart of the man, he said to him: *My dear friend, it fills me with fear and sorrow to see you approaching eternity without being reconciled to Our Lord. You have refused everything I have asked of you so far; do not refuse me this last request. Say a little prayer to the Blessed Virgin every day. If you have no confidence in the prayer yourself, say it in my name, for I have such confidence in her intercession that I believe she will even consider an appeal to her made in this way. Promise me that you will do this and I feel assured that by the time of her next feast you will have made your peace with God.*

• The man promised to say St. Bernard's great prayer, the Memorare, every day. On the day of the Annunciation the priest made the third visit. But the patient was a changed man by this time. He confessed his sins with all the evidences of contrition, received communion and died an edifying death.



## Ejaculations to Mary, Refuge of Sinners

O Holy Mary refuge of sinners, pray for all in the lamentable state of mortal sin.

O Mother of God! Most powerful advocate of sinners, I invoke thee especially on behalf of the most obdurate.



## Mary Refuge of Sinners



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## Refugium Peccatorum

# Why is Mary the Rufuge of Sinners?

- When sin entered the world, such a blight rested upon it, that God communed no longer with man as He was wont to do. There was no fit refuge for Him. All was darkness. In his transgression man closed his heart against his God, Who could find no delight in a place defiled by sin, where He once loved to dwell.
- For thousands years, tears and lamentations marked man's pathway on earth. Deprived of God's presence, all was sorrow, and darkness covered the face of the earth. From time to time some slight hope entered into the heart of man, when, through the rifts in the clouds that overspread the world, a faint light from Heaven would come to him. At last the day dawned.
- From His throne, the Almighty beheld a refuge in the person of a humble virgin, where He could find once more an abode among men. He would descend in the person of His Divine Son into that refuge in which He took delight, become one of us and repair the wrong done by Adam, father of the human race. No stain of any kind could exist where He chose to find shelter. In Mary full of grace, Mary most pure, most chaste, Mary immaculate, He found a suitable refuge, where He could enter without umbrage to His infinite majesty and sanctity.
- One of the titles which is the most encouraging to poor sinners, and under which the church teaches us to invoke Mary in the Litany of Loretto, is that of 'Refuge of sinners.'



- Man had sinned in Adam, but he sighed for the promised Redeemer who came to him under the shelter of His Virgin Mother Mary. Only those who sought Him through Mary were blessed in finding Him.
- We must turn toward Mary who sheltered Jesus and who is the refuge to which all sinners may look for safety and salvation in Christ Jesus, whom they will find through Mary, the secure refuge of sinners.
- God honoured her in the beginning, He still honours her. He lavished His graces upon her and she faithfully responded to all of them. All who are sin-burdened and far from their true home, should, like the soldier upon the battlefield, who, wounded and bleeding, thinks of his mother, remember their Mother Mary and seek her aid. She will be their secure refuge and under her benign protection, they will find their merciful Saviour. The very angels will rejoice because he who was lost has returned, and found through Mary, a safe refuge for all time.

*O Lady, thou art the refuge of the sick, poor, reject me not; for as I am the poorest and most infirm of all, I have the greatest right to be welcomed by thee.*

# Memorare

of St. Bernard

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession was left unaided.

Inspired with this confidence, I fly to thee, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother; to thee do I come; before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful.

O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

# Prayer of St. Pius X

Immaculate Virgin, the Refuge of Sinners, thou who, to repair the outrages committed against God, and the evil inflicted on man by sin, didst resign thyself to the death of thy divine Son, be ever propitious to us, and carry on thy work of zeal and love for us in Heaven, where thou reignest so gloriously.

We wish to be thy children, do thou show thyself a Mother to us; obtain from the Divine Restorer, Jesus, that by applying to our souls the fruits of His passion and death, He may free us from the bonds of our iniquities.

May He be our light in the darkness, our strength in weakness, our help in danger, so that after He has consoled us by His grace and love in time, He may permit us to see, possess, and love Him in eternity. Amen.

*Indulgence of 200 days, once a day (24<sup>th</sup> of August 1904)*