

FOR A DEPARTING SOUL
(From the Roman Ritual)

“I commend thee, dear brother, to the Almighty God, and consign thee to the care of Him whose creature thou art, that when thou shalt have paid the debt of all mankind by death, thou mayest return to thy Maker, who formed thee from the dust of the earth. When, therefore, thy soul shall depart from thy body, may the resplendent multitude of the angels meet thee; may the court of the Apostles receive thee; may the triumphant army of glorious martyrs come out to welcome thee; may the splendid company of the confessors, clad in their white robes, encompass thee; may the choir of joyful virgins receive thee; and mayest thou meet with a blessed repose in the bosom of the Patriarchs; may Jesus Christ appear to thee with a mild and joyful countenance, and appoint thee a place amongst those who are to stand before Him forever. Mayest thou be a stranger to all that is punished with darkness, chastised with flames, and condemned to torments. May the most wicked enemy, with all his evil spirits, be forced to give way; may he tremble at thy approach in the company of angels, and with confusion fly away into the vast chaos of eternal night. Let God arise, and His enemies be dispersed, and let them that hate Him fly from before His face; let them vanish like smoke; and as wax that melts before the fire, so let sinners perish in the sight of God, but may the just rejoice and be happy in His presence. May then all the legions of hell be confounded and put to shame, and may none of the ministers of Satan dare to stop thee in thy way. May Christ deliver thee from torments who was crucified for thee. May He deliver thee from eternal death, who vouchsafed to die for thee. May Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God, place thee in the ever verdant lawns of His paradise; and may He, the true Shepherd, acknowledge thee for one of His flock. May he absolve thee from thy sins, and place thee at His right hand in the midst of His elect. Mayest thou see thy Redeemer face to face, and, standing always in His presence, behold with happy eyes the most clear truth. And mayest thou be placed among the companies of the blessed, and enjoy the sweetness of the contemplation of thy God for ever. Amen.”

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