

HOLY WATER

The following is a quote from a leaflet dated 8 May 1925, and with the imprimatur of E. Touze, Vice General, printed in the 2001 Issue of **The Voice of Padre Pio**.

When one uses holy water with faith and confidence, it is of great profit for the soul and the body and can assist souls in Purgatory. Each time a priest blesses water to make it holy; he acts on behalf of the Church from whom the Savior always listens with pleasure to its prayers (whoever the Church is praying for). Hence, whoever takes holy water and sprinkles himself or objects that are present or absent can be assured that every time, the prayer of the Church will reach Heaven and bring down graces on his soul and body, and all the objects touched by the holy water, and puts to flight evil spirits.

Countless examples could be given to demonstrate the unspeakable fear the devil has for holy water. But how is it possible that we can sprinkle holy water on people who are far away and on the souls in Purgatory? *Each time that you sprinkle holy water on a child or brother, who is far away, the prayer of the Church to which it is attached rises to the Heart of Jesus and forces Him to take your family, bodies and souls under his protection. The same thing happens when you sprinkle holy water on the poor souls in Purgatory.* And who can say what relief one single drop of water can bring to the souls who are suffering in those flames?

Yes, one single drop of water is certainly often more effective than a long prayer, because unfortunately our prayers are only too often lukewarm and full of distractions. The prayer of the Church attached to holy water is quite another thing. This prayer is pleasing to the divine Savior at every moment, in all places, and each time it is offered to Him. This is why the Holy Souls sigh for holy water, and if we could see how they suffer and hear their urgent pleas, we would certainly sprinkle them with holy water at least in the morning and evenings and during the day! How often do you go

out and come in? How many errands during the course of a day! Would it be such a great effort for you to sprinkle a drop of holy water in Purgatory each time you leave your room? What joy you could bring these souls! Would benefits you would gain for yourselves and your family! Because the souls in Purgatory are not ungrateful. The very moment you help them, they raise their hands to Heaven and pray for their benefactors with a fervor that the most holy creatures of the earth could never attain. And God hears their prayers with as much pleasure as He hears the prayers of His purest spouses here below, and He sends His gifts and His graces in great quantities to those who help them. *No, a Christian should never leave his room without sprinkling three drops of water; one for himself and his family, so God keeps them safe in soul and body; a second one for the dying, especially sinners, so that God grants them the grace of conversion; and the third for souls in Purgatory.* Oh! How many blessings and guarantees of salvation, how many merits and graces you would gain for yourselves, your family, for men without number during the course of the year, if you put into practice this small and simple exercise of charity, as well as assuring yourselves a crowd of intercessors in life, death, and Purgatory! Each day, our soul is exposed to the danger of being lost. Hence, we need graces and help. One of the easiest and most effective ways of driving back the attacks of the enemy is by using holy water. Each time we use it, the Savior sends help, consolation and strength, so that we can do good and avoid evil. Finally, we can come to the aid of the souls in Purgatory with practically no trouble or effort. A drop of holy water is so greatly effective, and are we going to be so lazy as to back away from this effort?