

A Simple Exorcism. A Prayer Against Satan. for Priests or Laity.

Prayer Against Satan and the Rebellious Angels.

Published by Order of His Holiness Pope Leo XIII.

but adjusted to conform with

"Inde Ab Aliquot Annis" of 29 September 1985.

The following is a simple exorcism prayer that can be said by priests or laity. The term “**exorcism**” does NOT always denote a solemn exorcism involving a person possessed by the devil. In general, the term denotes prayers to “curb the power of the devil and prevent him from doing harm.” As Saint Peter had written in Holy Scripture, “your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, goeth about seeking whom he may devour.” (1 Saint Peter 5:8)

The Holy Father exhorts priests to say this prayer as often as possible, as a simple exorcism to curb the power of the devil and prevent him from doing harm. The faithful also may say it in their own name, for the same purpose, as any approved prayer. Its use is recommended whenever action of the devil is suspected, causing malice in men, violent temptations and even storms and various calamities. It could be used as a solemn exorcism (an official and public ceremony, *in Latin*), to expel the devil. It would then be said by a priest, in the name of the Church and only with a Bishop's permission.

Prayer to Saint Michael the Archangel.

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Most glorious Prince of the Heavenly Armies, Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in “our battle against principalities and powers, against the rulers of this world of darkness, against the spirits of wickedness in the high places” (Ephesians, 6:12). Come to the assistance of men whom God has created to His likeness and whom He has redeemed at a great price from the tyranny of the devil. Holy Church venerates thee as her guardian and protector; to thee, the Lord has entrusted the souls of the redeemed to be led into heaven. Pray therefore the God of Peace to crush Satan beneath our feet, that he may no longer retain men captive and do injury to the Church. Offer our prayers to the Most High, that without delay they may draw His mercy down upon us; take hold of “the dragon, the old serpent, which is the devil and Satan”, bind him and cast him into the bottomless pit . . . “that he may no longer seduce the nations” (Apocalypse 20:2-3).

Prayer for the grace of Exorcism.

In the Name of Jesus Christ, our God and Lord, strengthened by the intercession of the Immaculate Virgin Mary, Mother of God, of Blessed Michael the Archangel, of the Blessed Apostles Peter and Paul and all the Saints, we confidently undertake to repulse the attacks and deceits of the devil.

Psalm 67 verses 2 and 3 (Vulgate) [Psalm 68 verses 1 and 2 in the Hebrew].

God arises; His enemies are scattered and those who hate Him flee before Him. As smoke is driven away, so are they driven; as wax melts before the fire, so the wicked perish at the presence of God.

V. Behold the Cross of the Lord, flee bands of enemies.

R. The Lion of the tribe of Juda, the offspring of David, hath conquered.

V. May Thy mercy, Lord, descend upon us.

R. As great as our hope in Thee.

(The crosses below indicate a blessing to be given if a priest recites the Exorcism; if a lay person recites it, they indicate the Sign of the Cross to be made silently by that person.)

We ask God to drive them from us, whoever they may be, unclean spirits, all satanic powers, all infernal invaders, all wicked legions, assemblies and sects. In the Name and by the power of Our Lord Jesus Christ, + may they be snatched away and driven from the Church of God and from the souls made to the image and likeness of God and redeemed by the Precious Blood of the Divine Lamb. +

May the Lord rebuke the most cunning serpent, that he shall no more dare to deceive the human race, persecute the Church, torment God's elect and sift them as wheat. + May the Most High God command him, + He, the Lord, with whom, in his great insolence, Satan still claims to be equal, "God who wants all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:4). May God the Father command him. + May God the Son command him. + May God the Holy Ghost command him. + May Christ, God's Word made flesh, command him; + He who to save our race outdone through Satan's envy, "humbled Himself, becoming obedient even unto death" (Philippians 2:8); He who has built His Church on the firm rock and declared that the gates of hell shall not prevail against Her, because He will dwell with Her "all days even to the end of the world" (Matthew 28:20). May the sacred Sign of the Cross command him, + as may also the power of the mysteries of the Christian Faith. + May the glorious Mother of God, the Virgin Mary, command him; + she who by her humility and from the first moment of her Immaculate Conception crushed his proud head. May the faith of the holy Apostles Peter

and Paul, and of the other Apostles command him. + May the blood of the Martyrs and the pious intercession of all the Saints command him. +

Thus, may the cursed dragon, and also, the diabolical legions, be adjured and rebuked by the living God, + by the true God, + by the holy God, + by the God “who so loved the world that He gave up His only Son, that every soul believing in Him might not perish but have life everlasting” (Saint John 3:16); May the Lord stop him deceiving human creatures and pouring out to them the poison of eternal damnation; May the Lord stop him harming the Church and hindering her liberty. May the Lord command: 'Begone, Satan, inventor and master of all deceit, enemy of man's salvation'. May Satan give place to Christ in Whom he has found none of his works; May Satan give place to the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church acquired by Christ at the price of His Blood. May Satan stoop beneath the all-powerful Hand of God; May Satan tremble and flee when we invoke the Holy and terrible Name of Jesus, this Name which causes hell to tremble, this Name to which the Virtues, Powers and Dominations of heaven are humbly submissive, this Name which the Cherubim and Seraphim praise unceasingly repeating: Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord, the God of Hosts.

V. O Lord, hear my prayer.

R. And let my cry come unto Thee.

V. May the Lord be with thee. [or: May the Lord be with us.]

R. And with your spirit. [or: And with our spirits.]

Let us pray.

God of heaven, God of earth, God of Angels, God of Archangels, God of Patriarchs, God of Prophets, God of Apostles, God of Martyrs, God of Confessors, God of Virgins, God who has power to give life after death and rest after work: because there is no other God than Thee and there can be no other, for Thou art the Creator of all things, visible and invisible, of Whose reign there shall be no end, we humbly prostrate ourselves before Thy glorious Majesty and we beseech Thee to deliver us by Thy power from all the tyranny of the infernal spirits, from their snares, their lies and their furious wickedness. Deign, O Lord, to grant us Thy powerful protection and to keep us safe and sound. We beseech Thee through Jesus Christ Our Lord. **Amen.**

V. From the snares of the devil,

R. Deliver us, O Lord.

V. That Thy Church may serve Thee in peace and liberty:

R. We beseech Thee to hear us.

V. That Thou may crush down all enemies of Thy Church:

R. We beseech Thee to hear us.

(Holy water is sprinkled in the place where we may be.)

END OF THE PRAYER.

"Inde Ab Aliquot Annis" of 29 September 1985 says:

For some years there has been an increase in the number of ecclesial gatherings which seek liberation from demonic influences, even though they are not properly and truly exorcisms. These groups, even when a priest is present, are led by lay persons.

Since the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith has been asked what ought to be thought about this, this dicastery is of the opinion that all other ordinaries should have the following response:

1. Canon 1172 of the Code of Canon Law declares that no one is able to legitimately undertake exorcisms of the possessed unless expressed and individual permission has been obtained from the ordinary of the place (section 1). The canon also establishes that this permission ought to be conceded by the ordinary of the place only to priests who are distinguished in piety, knowledge, prudence, and integrity of life (section 2). Bishops are, therefore, strongly urged to see to the observance of these norms.

2. From these prescriptions it follows, therefore, that no member of the Christian faithful can use the formula of exorcism against Satan and fallen angels, extracted from that which was made law by Leo XIII, and even less are the able to use the entire text for exorcism. Bishops are to bring this to the attention of the faithful as it is deemed necessary.

3. Finally, for the same reasons, bishops are asked to be vigilant that – for even cases in which true diabolical possession is excluded, diabolical influence nevertheless seems in some way to be revealed – those who do not have the required faculty not serve in the leading of meetings where, in order to gain freedom, prayers are used which dignify demons by directly questioning them and in searching to make known their identity.

The announcement of these norms, however, ought not to keep the faithful from praying that, as Jesus taught us, they might be delivered from evil (compare Matthew 6:13). Finally, pastors ought to avail themselves of this occasion to recall what the tradition of the Church teaches about the proper

function of sacraments and the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the angels and the saints in the spiritual fight of Christians against evil spirits.

* * *

The Saint Benedict Medal has these symbols and prayers:

The vertical beam of the Cross has five letters: **C.S.S.M.L.**, meaning *Crux Sacra Sit Mihi Lux* (May the Holy Cross be for Me a Light).

The horizontal beam of the Cross also has five letters: **N.D.S.M.D.**, meaning *Non Draco Sit Mihi Dux* (Let Not the Dragon Be My Guide).

The four large letters at the angles of the Cross: **C. S. P. B.** stand for *Crux Sancti Patris Benedicti* (The Cross of the Holy Father Benedict).

Encircling the Cross in a circle around the right margin are these letters: **V.R.S.N.S.M.V.**, meaning *Vade retro Satana; nunquam suade mihi vana* (Begone [go behind me] Satan! Suggest not to me {thy} vain things {the Latin does not have 'thy' in the sentence}).

Around the left margin of the circle are these letters: **S.M.Q.L.I.V.B.**, meaning *Sunt mala quae libas; ipse venena bibas* (The drink you offer is evil; drink that poison yourself).

At the top of the circle is the word **PAX** (Peace).