



Boston Catholic Journal



NIHIL NISI IESUM

Dedicated to Mary, Mother of God

Salus Animarum Suprema Lex Esto (Canon Law 175)

The Salvation of Souls is the Supreme Law in the Church

The Assumption of Mary into Heaven Body and Soul

a Prayer for a Happy Death

and a Mysterious Painting

Mariæ, perfectissimæ omnium creationum Dei. *



Assumptione Beatae Mariae Virgini

Oratio ad Mariam pro Felici Morte

(Prayer to Mary for a Happy Death)

“O, Maria, dilecta mea super omnem creationem Dei in Caelo et in Terra; te amo! Mea dilecta Domina, sponsa cordis mei, quaeso accipe totum amorem meum in corde meo pro te; amor qui suppressus nec verbis exprimendus est. Te amo totaliter, Domina mea, Mater mea, Regina mea, et Dilecta mea. Quaeso, Maria, sponsa animae meae, obviam mihi esto in hora mortis meae; saluta me cum ultimam spiritum emisero, et tenere me perge dum moriar. In ultima respiratione mea amplectere me, obsecro te, et ad Filium tuum, Dominum meum, Deum meum, et Regem meum, duc me, ut sim cum Ipso et te, et cum omnibus Angelis Sanctisque Dei, et comitatu Martyrum, laudans et adorans Deum in Caelo in aeternum et in saecula saeculorum.

Sancta Maria, Mater Dei, ora pro me peccatore. Amen.”

Translation:

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Prayer to Mary for a Happy Death

“O Mary, my beloved above all God’s creation in Heaven and on Earth; I love thee! My beloved Lady, spouse of my heart, please accept the total love in my heart for thee; a love that I cannot suppress, nor put into words. I love thee totally, my Lady, my Mother, my Queen, and my Beloved. Please, Mary, spouse of my soul, meet me at the hour of my death; greet me when I breathe my last, and hold me as I lay dying. In my final breath embrace me, I implore thee, and bring me to thy Son, my Lord, my God and my King, that I may be with Him and with thee, and with all God’s holy Angels, Saints, and Company of Martyrs, praising and adoring God in Heaven forever and ever.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for me, a sinner. Amen.”

About this Mysterious Painting

You will not find this painting anywhere else in the world. It is *The Assumption of Mary* into Heaven, body and soul at the instant of her death. This is a dogma of our Catholic Faith.

The origin of this painting, as well as the artist, remains a complete mystery. It was given to the Boston Catholic Journal by an anonymous donor in October 2024. We do not know who the donor was. We do not know who the painter is. From the accompanying Latin prayer, it is clear that the petition is for the grace of a Happy Death, a death in the State of Grace; the soul being greeted by Mary in the last hour.

This Latin prayer for a happy death cannot be found anywhere else either, and the English translation is as close an approximation to the Latin that we have been able to render.

We bring this to you, because the grace of a happy death is an inestimable good, and must be counted among the greatest blessings given to men: to die in the state of grace ... and to behold the Face of God!

Geoffrey K. Mondello

Editor

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Feast of the Holy Martyrs Servandus and Germanus

* To Mary the most perfect of all God's creation

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Geoffrey K. Mondello
Editor
Boston Catholic Journal



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