

# **DEDICATION**

The Blessed Virgin said: "You love me and make others love me." This revised 2005 edition of the Pieta Prayer Book is dedicated to thee, dear Lady of Ephesus, as an act of love to honor thine Assumption. "I am all thine, my Queen and Mother, and all that I have is thine".

# INTRODUCTION

This prayer book is an effort to present beautiful truths and devotions of our Roman Catholic Faith, in order that those who use these prayers devoutly may obtain greater grace to better serve God. The book draws particularly on that gigantic source of God's goodness and mercy — a source which is virtually untapped. Furthermore, there are utilized some texts that come from private revelations which also can spur us on to receive available graces by emphasizing even a deeper devotion to God. "When it's a question of private revelations the Pope is the SOLE judge for the entire Roman Catholic Church!"

(Pope Leo X, 5th Council of Lateran, 1513)

## **INDULGENCES**

Indulgenced prayers and devotions are a gift from the Church to aid us in our spiritual journey. A plenary indulgence is a full pardon for punishments owing for sin, sacramentally confessed, and makes possible immediate entrance into heaven after death. The requirements for gaining a plenary indulgence are sacramental confession, Communion and prayers for the Pope's intentions such as an Our Father and a Hail Mary. We must also have an attitude of love and penitence, with no attachment to any sin. If this disposition is in any way less than complete, or if the three prescribed conditions are not fulfilled, the indulgence is only partial. This form of

indulgence may only be gained once a day, and may be offered only for the deceased or for yourself. Prayers with this privilege are indicated thus \*\* in this book.

A partial Indulgence is a partial pardon for penance owing. The faithful should at least have a contrite heart to gain the partial indulgence. Prayers with this privilege are indicated thus \*. The Enchiridion of Indulgences has been followed for these marked prayers. Older prayers are labeled thus, "indulgenced by Pope (Name)."

Scripture says: "Pray without ceasing." St. Lawrence Justinian puts prayer in the proper light. He writes: "In prayer the soul cleanses itself from sin, charity is nourished, faith is strengthened, hope is made secure, the spirit rejoices, the soul grows tender, the heart is purified, truth discovers itself, temptation is overcome, sadness takes to flight, the senses are renewed, failing virtue is made good, tepidity disappears, the rust of sin is rubbed away. In it are brought forth flashes of heavenly desire, and in these fires the flame of divine love burns up." May the Pieta Prayer Book serve all souls who desire to advance their spiritual life and live in union with God.

The Fifteen St. Bridget Prayers
Revealed by Our Lord to
Saint Bridget of Sweden
in the Church of St. Paul at Rome

These prayers published under sanction of the Decree of November 18, 1966, published in the Acta Apostolicae Sedis, Vol. 58, No. 16, December 29, 1966.

# St. Birgitta of Sweden (1303-1373) A Woman Who Changed the World

A saint for our time



**BRIDE OF CHRIST** 

"Birgitta, I am speaking not only to you but to all Christians. You will be My bride...and it shall be through you that I will speak to the world. My spirit will dwell in you until your death."

#### PRAYERS ARE APPROVED

Pope Urban VI (1378-1389) encouraged the multiplication of written copies of the Revelations of St. Bridget, for there were no printing presses at that time. The Magnificent Prayers were copied from a book printed in Toulouse in 1740, and published by Fr. Adrien Parvilliers of the Society of Jesus, Missionary Apostolic of the Holy Land. He had approbation, permission and recommendation to spread the devotion.

The books containing these prayers have been approved by a great number of prelates, among them His Eminence Cardinal F. J. Giraud of Cambria in 1845, and Archbishop Florian of Toulouse in 1863. Blessed Pope Pius IX on May 31, 1862, blessed The Revelations of St. Bridget. The great Congress of Malines recommended the prayers on August 22, 1863. Pope Benedict XV (1914-1922) expressed himself as follows on the Revelations of St. Bridget: "The approbation of such revelations implies nothing more than, after mature examination, it is permissible to publish them for the unit of the faithful. Though they don't merit the same credence as the truths of religion, one can however, believe them out of human faith, conforming to the rules of prudence by which they are probable, and supported by sufficient motives that one might believe in them piously."

(Les Petits Bollandistes, tome XII)

## SAINT BRIDGET OF SWEDEN

On the 14th of June, 1303, the moment Bridget was born, Benedict, the curate of Rasbo, prayed for the happy deliverance of Ingeborde. Suddenly he found himself enveloped by a luminous cloud out of which Our Lady appeared and said: "A child has been born at Birger; her voice will be heard by the entire world."

Imprimatur: April 24, 1903, Sagii

St. Brigitte or St. Bridget, daughter of Birgir, royal blood prince of Sweden, was born of highly pious parents. Having lost her virtuous mother soon after birth, little Bridget was brought up by one of her highly virtuous aunts. She could not speak before the age of three, but as soon as she spoke, she began praising God. In early childhood serious discourses pleased her, and grace powerfully filled her heart so that only pious readings attracted her.

At the age of ten she was particularly touched by a sermon she heard on the Passion of Our Lord. The following night she believed that she saw Our Lord nailed to the cross and all covered with blood and wounds. At the same time she heard a voice saying: "Look upon Me, My daughter." "O Dear Lord," asked St. Bridget, "who has treated You so cruelly?" Our Lord replied: "Those who despise Me and are insensible to My Love for them." That mysterious dream left so deep an impression on her that, from then on, she continually meditated on the sufferings of Our Lord Jesus Christ, which drove her to tears.

At the age of 15, through obedience, she was married to Prince Ulf, a very pious young man, and they had eight children. One of her daughters became St. Catherine of Sweden.

St. Bridget's example more than her instructions sanctified her large family. Her revelations and other celestial favors made her all the more fervent and humble. She died in Rome in 1373 after having returned from a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. She practiced mental prayer and meditated often on the life and sufferings of Our Lord Jesus Christ. She founded the Brigittines.

For a long time St. Bridget wanted to know the number of blows Our Lord received during His Passion. He one day appeared to her and said: "I received 5480 blows on My Body. If you wish to honor them in some way, say 15 Our Fathers and 15 Hail Marys with the following prayers (which He taught her) for a whole year. When the year is up, you will have honored each one of My Wounds."

Visitors to the Church of St. Paul at Rome can see the crucifix, above the Tabernacle in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, sculptured by Pierre Cavallini, before which St. Bridget knelt when she received these fifteen prayers from Our Lord. The following inscription was placed in the church to commemorate the event: "Pendentis, Pendente Dei verba accepit aure accipit et verbum corde Brigitta Deum. Anno Jubilei MCCCL." (Translation: "Bridget not only receives the words of God hanging in the air, but takes the work of God into her heart. Jubilee Year 1350.")

#### **Promises**

- 1. I will deliver 15 souls of his lineage from purgatory.
- 15 souls of his lineage will be confirmed and preserved in grace.
- 3. 15 sinners of his lineage will be converted.
- Whoever recites these prayers will attain the first degree of perfection.
- 15 days before his death I will give him My Precious Body in order that he may escape eternal starvation; I will give him My Precious Blood to drink lest he thirst eternally.
- 6. 15 days before his death he will feel a deep contrition for all his sins and will have a perfect knowledge of them.
- 7. I will place before him the sign of My Victorious Cross for his help and defense against the attacks of his enemies.
- Before his death I shall come with My dearest beloved Mother.
- I shall graciously receive his soul, and will lead it into eternal joys.
- And having led it there I shall give him a special draught from the fountain of My Deity, something I will not for

- those who have not recited My prayers.
- 11. Let it be known that whoever may have been living in a state of mortal sin for 30 years, but who will recite devoutly, or have the intention to recite these Prayers, the Lord will forcive him all his sins.
- 12. I shall protect him from strong temptations.
- 13. I shall preserve and guard his 5 senses.
- 14. I shall preserve him from a sudden death.
- 15. His soul will be delivered from eternal death.
- He will obtain all he asks for from God and the Blessed Virgin.
- If he has lived all his life doing his own will and he is to die the next day, his life will be prolonged.
- 18. Every time one recites these Prayers he gains 100 days indulgence.
- He is assured of being joined to the supreme Choir of Angels.
- Whoever teaches these Prayers to another, will have continuous joy and merit which will endure eternally.
- 21. There where these Prayers are being said or will be said in the future, God is present with His grace. The 21 St. Bridget Promises, while traditionally associated with the St. Bridget Prayers, are not covered by an imprimatur. In Jan. of 1954 the Holy Office issued a warning that the supernatural origin of these promises has not been proven.

The Church has always recommended meditations on the Passion of Our Lord. The Blessed Virgin Mary said to St. Bridget: "The consideration of the Passion of my Son ought to be frequently in man's thoughts." St. Bonaventure said: "Let him who desires to attain union with God keep the eyes of his soul ever fixed on Him who hangs dying on the Cross. It's from those wounds of the Saviour that man draws power to suffer not merely with patience but with joy."

## FIFTEEN ST. BRIDGET PRAYERS

First Prayer

Our Father — Hail Mary. (page 78)

O Jesus Christ! Eternal Sweetness to those who love Thee, joy surpassing all joy and all desire, salvation and hope of all sinners, Who hast proved that Thou hast no greater desire than to be among men, even assuming human nature at the fullness of time for the love of men! Recall all the sufferings Thou hast endured from the instant of Thy conception, and especially during Thy Passion, as it was decreed and ordained from all eternity in the Divine Plan.

Remember, O Lord, that during the Last Supper with Thy disciples, having washed their feet, Thou gavest them Thy Most Precious Body and Blood, and while at the same time Thou didst sweetly console them, Thou didst foretell them Thy coming Passion.

Remember the sadness and bitterness which Thou didst experience in Thy Soul as Thou Thyself bore witness saying: "My Soul is sorrowful, even unto death."

Remember all the fear, anguish and pain that Thou didst suffer in Thy delicate Body before the torment of the Crucifixion when, after having prayed three times, bathed in a sweat of blood, Thou wast betrayed by Judas, Thy disciple, arrested by the people of a nation Thou hadst chosen and elevated, accused by false witnesses, unjustly judged by three judges during the flower of Thy youth and during the solemn Paschal season.

Remember that Thou wast despoiled of Thy garments and clothed in those of derision; that Thy Face and Eyes were veiled; that Thou wast buffeted, crowned with thorns, a reed placed in Thy Hands; that Thou was crushed with blows and overwhelmed with affronts and outrages.

In memory of all these pains and sufferings which Thou didst endure before Thy Passion on the Cross, grant me before my death true contrition, a sincere and entire confession, worthy satisfaction and the remission of all my sins. Amen.

### Second Prayer

Our Father — Hail Mary.

O Jesus! True liberty of angels, Paradise of delights! Remember the horror and sadness which Thou didst endure when Thy enemies, like furious lions, surrounded Thee, and by thousands of insults, spits, blows, lacerations and other unheard-of-cruelties, tormented Thee at will.

In consideration of these torments and insulting words, I beseech Thee, O my Saviour, to deliver me from all my enemies, visible and invisible, and to bring me, under Thy protection, to the perfection of eternal salvation. Amen.

## Third Prayer

Our Father — Hail Mary.

O Jesus! Creator of heaven and earth Whom nothing can encompass or limit, Thou Who dost enfold and hold all under Thy loving power! Remember the very bitter pain Thou didst suffer when the Jews nailed Thy Sacred Hands and Feet to the Cross by blow after blow with big blunt nails, and not finding Thee in a pitiable enough state to satisfy their rage, they enlarged Thy Wounds, and added pain to pain, and with indescribable cruelty stretched Thy Body on the Cross, pulled Thee from all sides, thus dislocating Thy Limbs.

I beg of Thee, O Jesus, by the memory of this most loving suffering of the Cross, to grant me the grace to fear Thee and to love Thee. Amen.

# Fourth Prayer

Our Father — Hail Mary.

O Jesus! Heavenly Physician, raised aloft on the Cross to