

**PARISH FAMILY ABLAZE (4-16-23): BALTIMORE CATECHISM NO. 2  
PART 1, LESSON 13—THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS AND FORGIVENESS  
OF SINS**

I. Prayers

- A. “Signum Crucis”: “In nomine Patris et Filii et Spiritus Sancti.  
Amen.”
- B. “Prayer to the Holy Spirit” (Inside Front Cover)
- C. Saint and Virtue:
  - 1. Saint Gerard
  - 2. Patience

II. The Communion of Saints and the Forgiveness of Sins

- A. The Communion of Saints—The Mystical Body of Christ—  
Triumphant in Heaven, Suffering in Purgatory, Militant on

Earth:

- 1. Church Triumphant in Heaven—State of Perfect Happiness:
  - a. Immediate vision (beatific)/Perfect love of God
  - b. Perfect knowledge, love, and enjoyment of creatures
  - c. Human souls until the final judgment and the  
resurrection of the body

(exceptions—Jesus/Mary)

- d. Differing degrees of happiness in each person
- e. Eternal (taken beyond time/space), Continuous (joy),  
Communal (Holy communion of saints and  
God and with one another)

angels with

- f. Pray for souls in purgatory and on earth—intercede/  
encourage/assist

- 2. Church Suffering in Purgatory—State of souls being purified  
after death for temporal punishment due to forgiven  
before entering Heaven

sins

- a. Childlikeness—complete dependence on God and  
on other holy persons
- b. Obedient acceptance of suffering for atonement
- c. No possibility of merit
- d. Varying degree of suffering—may be shortened or  
made less intense through prayer and good

works of  
plenary indulgences)

the faithful on earth (partial and

- e. Can intercede for those on earth
- f. Purgatory ends at the final judgment

3. Church Militant on Earth— Battling against the world, the flesh, and the Devil and extending Christ's Kingdom and the Father's Family

- a. Work to remain in a state of grace to assist one another on Earth in charity (spiritual/corporal works of mercy); to gather the harvest as missionary disciples; and

to  
and good  
His work in them  
and our benefit

assist those in Purgatory through prayers  
works—they allow God to complete  
and through them for His glory

- b. We pray to saints in Heaven in veneration and to ask for their intercession and assistance, for their prayers and works are in perfect accord with the Father's will, Christ's on-going work, and with the action Spirit (grace/sanctification)

with  
of the Holy

B. The Forgiveness of Sins:

- 1. Baptism (original sin/personal sins)
- 2. Reconciliation (personal mortal/venial sins)
- 3. Anointing of the Sick (personal sins—mortal/venial)— must have at least imperfect contrition for them/Apostolic temporal punishment due to sin
- 4. Holy Communion (personal venial sins)

Pardon—

III. Discussion Questions

- A. Do you pray to saints each day to honor them and to ask for their assistance? Who are your favorite saints and why?
- B. Do you pray and carry out works to shorten the stay and the degree of suffering of the souls in Purgatory? Have you every sought to gain a partial or plenary indulgence for the souls in Purgatory?

IV. Questions for Father Jack

V. Mission/Closing Prayer