



Our Lady of the Atonement

Have you been in Baguio? Did you see on top of one of the highest mountains the beautiful but only half finished Church? It is the Church of Our Lady of the Atonement. Here with on top of this page go the pictures of the said Church and of the Statue of Our Lady of the Atonement. When St. John the Baptist preached the coming of the kingdom of Christ, he preached penance or atonement. Jesus came and He atoned for our sins. The Blessed Virgin appeared at Lourdes and three times she sighed for atonement. If unhappily in the Philippines our faith is being shaken, if we see religious duties neglected on Sundays and at Eastertime, but above all if we see that much has to be done in the Philippines to restore the Church of Christ, let us first begin by atoning for the sins committed: it is the will of God, the will of the Blessed Virgin. If Mary were on earth, how she would do penance for sinners! and try to satisfy for those who offend Her beloved Son day and night, year in, year out. This will of God and of the Blessed Virgin, that penance should be done, was the reason why the Church of Baguio was consecrated to the Blessed Virgin under the special title of OUR LADY OF THE ATONEMENT. But this is not enough. To make real atonement, each month of the year a solemn novena is celebrated at the church of

Baguio in honor of Our Lady of the Atonement to satisfy for sins and to obtain the conversion of sinners in general and to beg God's favors in particular for all those who make the novena. Moreover, anyone, interested in the conversion of a particular sinner or in need of a special favor, is requested to join the novena, by making it at home as explained hereunder. However as union in prayer gives it greater strength according to the words of Jesus: "that whenever two shall pray together He will be with them", we should not pray individually for the graces we need, but pray with all those who make the novena, to obtain the graces asked by each person in particular. Therefore whenever you are in need of some particular grace, send the intention per letter to the Rev. Father Carlu, rector of the Atonement Church, Baguio, or drop it into the box erected for the purpose in the said Church.

No names shall be published, unless desired. What should you write in your letter? Just mention the grace or favor you wish to be recommended to the prayers of those who make the novena. That intention shall be published in this review so that all the readers and others who make the monthly novena may know what they have to pray for.

The first novena of this kind began

January 5th, 1924, in the Church of Our Lady of the Atonement. Six intentions only had come in. But 15 persons attended the novena daily, although a few others claimed they made the novena at home. This first novena did not seem a success if one regard either the intentions prayed for, or the number of the faithful who attended the exercises. Nevertheless as four of the six who had brought in their intentions came later to announce that the favors they asked for had been granted, we may call the first novena a great success. Does that not show Our Lady wishes to be honored at her shrine of Bagoio? Does that not prove that atonement offered for sins pleases her immensely?

The novena of the month of February was a novena not only of petition but also of thanksgiving for the above said favors granted. This time 27 petitions were found in the box at the foot of the statue of Our Lady of the Atonement and a good number of Her devotees followed daily the exercises. Each evening at 5:30 the rosary was said, followed by the Litany of O. L. of the Atonement and the exercises closed with the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. On the 10th, how impressive it was to see many mothers present their babies to be blessed.

Thus every month the exercises are being more and more attended. They begin on the Saturday, following the first Friday of the month. Therefore intentions to be recommended should be sent in time. Those who obtain the request asked for, should, please, inform Father Carlu, and the Review will gladly publish the favor granted, for the greater glory of God and O. L. of the Atonement. Those who make the novena should, moreover, receive Holy Communion at least once during the nine days and, after the daily recitation of the rosary, should say the following prayer:

I salute thee, Holy Mary, Daughter of God the Father, and entreat thee to obtain for us a devotion like thine own to the most sweet Will of God.

I salute thee, Virgin Mother of God the Son, and entreat thee to obtain for us such union with the Sacred Heart of Jesus that our own hearts may burn with love of God and an ardent zeal for the salvation of souls. I salute thee, Immaculate Spouse of God the Holy Ghost and entreat thee to obtain for us such yielding of ourselves to the Blessed Spirit, that He may in all things direct and rule our hearts and that we may never grieve Him in thought, or word, or deed.

A Letter from Father Claerhoudt

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sionary

I know already a little of the Igorote dialect, but the Igorotes know so well to turn the letters, to suppress and to add syllables, that they seem to me very handy to talk.

Thanking you again, dear Father,

and with best wishes I remain :

Yours in Jesus and Mary.

Alphonse Claerhoudt.

After such a consoling letter, expressing so much hope, showing such great poverty and activity, who would refuse some help to the Father of Bokod? The fund for his mission, the mission of the Blessed Little Flower of the Infant Jesus should swell to overflowing. Any help may be sent to Rev. O. Vandewalle, Her-ran 2020, Paco, Manila.