

FATHER TRIEST AT PRAYER

Bro. René Stockman



Peter Joseph Triest (1760-1836) was a spiritual man, whose life was guided by the profound realisation that he was a beloved child of the Father. Throughout the years, the fruit of a deepened prayer life, he became a charismatic and even mystical man, who very consciously entered that relationship of love with God and shined God's love into the world, especially in the world of the poor and the sick. Charity became his special charism, which he shared with his fellow brothers and sisters, whom he had gathered to let God's love shine in the world, just like he did.

Today, his life story is still very relevant, even after 200 years, and his writings have not lost any of their freshness and accuracy. Within the scope of the beatification process, these have been compiled and arranged, and reveal a truly great man, perhaps not physically but on a spiritual and a social level. He was rightly referred to as the Belgian Vincent de Paul upon his death in 1836.

Perhaps his prayers are somewhat less known. He spoke them when closing his homilies or he offered them specifically to his brothers and sisters. We have extracted them from his writings and arranged them thematically. The latter was quite easy to accomplish as his prayers focus on the love of God and, in connection, his great devotion to the Eucharist, the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and the Holy Cross.

As a logical consequence, he phrased an entire series of prayers in which he invokes God's mercy. Love and mercy are aligned, and mercy is the mutation of love, as it were, the expression of God to man who lives in sin.

Triest also had a great devotion to Mary, whom he considered as Mother and Mediatrix, and he dedicated a number of prayers to her.

Finally, he offered his religious three prayers to achieve a better experience and living of the vows.

May this booklet help us pray with Father Triest, by entering his school of prayer. May it add depth to our prayer life, so that we might become true men and women of prayer, just like Triest, open to God's love, more aware of God's love, and willing to give a positive response to His offer of love, realising that in it we will receive the full fulfilment of our lives.

Bro. René Stockman,
Brother of Charity

Rome, Easter 2015



ON DIVINE LOVE

O wonderful love, O Jesus, how much you have loved us!

O Jesus, what love you have exhausted for us, You, who are God! What more could you give us than yourself! You give us a new miracle of love: during your mortal life you lived in only one place in the world, but now your love makes you present everywhere, at every moment and every day! And your love will make you present until the end of time, that is to say as long as there are humans.

But how shall I speak of you, of divine Love, since nobody can understand you. You are an incommensurable ocean, an abyss in which one gets lost! O source of love, come to the help of my powerlessness and make the hearts of my listeners feel what no human speech can make their spirit understand. Dear listeners, with the apostle St John I say: “The Heart of Jesus has loved us without limit, let us love him then without limit.”

Divine Jesus, fill my words with the fire of your love and inflame all hearts with this fire so that we become worthy children of your heart.

But, O dearest and most loveable Jesus, you know my vulnerability, the weakness of my heart, my ignorance and incapacity. Before I continue, I ask and beg your divine Majesty for grace, help and succour. Through the rays of your divine light chase the darkness from my mind. Grant power and strength to my voice so that my words may resound as a trumpet blast in the ears of my audience so that their hearts be moved and become truly repentant of their sins. Enkindle, then, in the hearts of the people present here, especially in the hearts of all sinners, the fire of your love which caused you to endure all your pain and torture. For the latter in particular, I implore your grace so that they may know even now the greatness of your love and the depth of their sins, that they may abandon and forsake them and, from now on, always burn with love for you in return.



JESUS IN THE EUCHARIST:
THE SACRAMENT OF LOVE

Dear Lord, I am sad when I see how you are left alone in so many churches throughout the world. How I would love to make up for this indifference by being everywhere and simultaneously wherever you are abandoned. But what I cannot possibly do myself, O dear God, allow me to do it through others, allow me to unite myself with the adoration of the angels.

Beloved Saviour, grant us this grace, we beg you, make our hearts like yours. We have consecrated ourselves to you. Today we renew our consecration with the greatest fervour. Yes, all we have we give you without reserve. We offer you this Church, grant that your Sacred Heart will be adored here night and day with fervour. We offer you this parish, be always its shepherd. We offer you ourselves, may we never go back on our word.

Please accept our offering and fill us with your blessings. Convert sinners, grant perseverance to the just, console the sorrowful, relieve the sick, help the dying.

Grant, O divine Heart, that we all serve you faithfully and love you sincerely in this world and that one day we will rejoice to be united with you in heaven.

O Lord, I acknowledge my unworthiness and I now see that the more I distanced myself from the holy altar the more deeply I fell into the abyss of sin which makes me feel ashamed. But now I wish to purify my heart by confession so as to receive you worthily. I desire to be one of your regular guests. Because I am weak I want to strengthen myself continually. As I am miserable I wish continually to seek your consolation. Give me the grace that the fervent piety of someone, who often receives you, may fill me with a holy reverence and holy zeal. And just as I must love more and more and serve you better so also must I receive you more frequently with deeper Christian dispositions. Give me, O Lord, this attitude, deliver me from the world and make me worthy of tasting, in the reception of the Blessed Sacrament, your precious Body and Blood, the hidden sweetness, so that always fully satisfied I still remain hungry for the Bread of the Elect. Then I will have on this earth a real foretaste of the Invisible Bread with which I will be fully satisfied eternally in heaven. Amen.



O SACRED HEART OF JESUS

Most loving Heart of Jesus, since you ask for my heart, here it is, I give it to you. You are the only one worthy of it and you alone can make it happy. I give it to you so that you can heal it of all the wounds of pride, selfishness, attachment to earthly things and still greater attachment to myself, lack of love for my neighbour, in one word, of all his wounds. Do not leave a single one except the wound that your love has caused. Jesus Christ, my God, I desire one thing only: a place in your heart. I realise that, to enter your heart, there is no other door than the tears and sorrow for my blindness and my sins.

Ah, **Sacred Heart of Jesus**, O source of all grace, origin of all perfection, guide our thoughts, purify our desires, sanctify our feelings, receive our adoration and our offering. We wish to offer and submit all our hearts to you. Grant us, we pray, to be humble, meek and patient in suffering and to seek for nothing except your honour and glory, to love you alone now and throughout all eternity. Amen.

Yes, **divine Heart of Jesus**, once again we offer ourselves to you with all we have and all we are. Receive our hearts which are sincerely grieved by the disdain you received on our behalf. We wish to expiate, we want to resolve sincerely to love and to serve you. We only want to live in order to fulfil you most holy will. Strengthen in us these resolves so that, after having given love for love in this life, we might have the happiness to love you in eternity. We only want to live in order to love, and breathe to adore you, to love you and to make up for all the injustice we have done to you. These are our ardent resolutions and desires. Amen.

I feel ashamed, **Lord Jesus**, that my heart is so cold when yours is burning with love for me. I hope my heart will love you from now on with a greater love. Even if all the blessings become blurred with time, even if all the favours are denied through ingratitude, even if the memory is confused through old age, the love you show me in the Sacred Heart will never disappear from my memory. With Paul I will always remember that you love me tenderly and that you gave yourself for me.

From now onwards I shall mobilise all the strength of my soul to love you in return: my intelligence to submit totally to this act of faith and to defend it energetically; my will to show you my great respect; my memory to remember your love always.

But, above all, I shall show you my love by approaching your holy altar to nourish myself or to offer the bloodless sacrifice. O God of love, my heart fortified by your grace, will burn for you with the fire of love.



O HOLY CROSS

O cross of my Saviour, I adore you and I wish to carry you. I lay down my heart at the place where Jesus laid his Body. I hail you holy cross, you who are the glory of the world, our true hope, and “the second plank of salvation after the shipwreck.” And you, adorable Saviour, who chose to do likewise to redeem us, put it as a stamp on our hearts, in order that we may venerate it; place it in our arms so that we may carry it.

By your infinite mercy, grant that just as it served as an instrument of our redemption so it may bear the same fruits for us by our sincere service, patience, abandonment and love in our lives and we may enjoy, in the next life, eternal and blessed contemplation.
Amen.

O blessed and merciful Saviour
Christ Jesus, who received this sign of foolishness, of scandal, this sign of malediction and damnation, the wood of the cross, with deep humility and love in order to lie down on it as on a soft bed, I implore you: grant me help and strength. That, after your example, I may also lovingly receive the cross of affliction, sickness and torment. Because

of this godless sentence, this unfair death sentence passed by Pilate which you accepted with love and patience, without a word of contradiction, which you received as a meek lamb, I beg you, blessed Christ Jesus: when you come with great might and majesty, when you come as the just Judge on Judgement Day to judge the living and the dead, “Do not put your servant on trial” (Ps. 143, 2). Do not remember my past sins (Ps. 27, 7). But grant me the following grace according to your great kindness and mercifulness; that I may be reckoned among the number of the blessed on your right hand so that I deserve to hear from your blessed lips the pleasing and glad sentence: “Come, you whom my Father has blessed” (Mt. 25, 34).



PRAYERS FOR GODS MERCY

O my God, give me the ability and strength to bring all hearts that are broken back to you, and to inflame them with love for you.

Lord Jesus, look upon our weakness. For unless you look at us, even your words will not suffice to touch our hearts of stone and awaken our remorse.

Lord Jesus, look upon them and upon us with the look of clemency with which you looked at Mary of Magdala and made her cry so bitterly that she not only washed your sacred feet but purified her sinful conscience. Lord Jesus, look upon us with these eyes full of grace and mercy with which you looked upon Peter in Caiaphas' palace and which made him go out and cry bitterly.

Beloved Christ Jesus, since you readily received the repentant sinner with kindness and mercy, and granted him full pardon not only for his sins but also saved him from all punishment for his sins, you further promised him he would be with you in heaven that same day; allow me to use the same words that the repentant thief used: "Jesus, remember

me when you come into your kingdom” (Lk. 23, 42). Merciful Saviour, you, who granted the prayer of Mannaseh, Jonah, Mary of Magdala and so many other sinners, do not turn your face away from me; I am praying here at the foot of the crucifix. It is true, my blessed Saviour, that I do not deserve to be listened to by you, for I have no merits; and when you consider my sins I deserve to be sent away forever from your divine presence. I have sinned so often that I should confess publicly with David: “My sins stand higher than my head” (Ps. 38, 4). And thus, for my part, I have neither motive nor reason to expect your mercy. Yet, my God, relying upon your infinite merits and as a child of the Church, with her, my mother, I dare say: “You have listened to the prayer of the thief; you have given me hope.” You have given me hope to obtain pardon for all my sins; for this I humbly implore you, and with the penitent David I cry to you: “Source of mercy, take pity on me” (Ps. 4, 1).

Meek and patient Saviour, I must confess openly with the prodigal son: “I have sinned against heaven and against you” (Lk. 15, 18). I confess that I have borne with so little love and patience

the indignity and wrong done to me unlike the example you set me. I confess that I have tried to take revenge on my neighbour who wronged me. But now, O Jesus, I am won over by your meekness. From the bottom of my heart I forgive all wrong and debt that people have caused me or have tried to cause me. From now on I want to endure everything patiently for love of you! Come to the help of my sick and evil nature with your help and grace so that I, according to your teaching, can offer the other cheek to him who hits me. Like this I may obtain your forgiveness for all my debts because of my patience and forgiveness regarding the indignity done to me. And so may I be united with you in heaven through the eternal bond of love, peace and quiet. Amen.

O lovely, precious and long-awaited day on which my God will take possession of my soul and body, and will feed me with his own Body, his precious Blood and even his godhead! Was it not enough that you, O my God, through a singular and undeserved love, chose me from among so many thousands of unbelieving peoples through the spiritual rebirth of my Baptism? The new life that I received

then, the honourable titles you gave me then of Christian, child of God, brother and disciple of Christ Jesus, of temple and bride of the Holy Spirit and member of the Holy Church, the hope and right to eternal life I received then – were they not as so many favours and benefits which I should value infinitely greater than all honours and benefits of the world? Indeed, I should always have considered this day as the happiest of all my days; but alas, I am far from having duly responded to these excellent and infinite favours of your love for me. Scarcely was I able to recognise them than I showed my ingratitude through my life totally unworthy of my noble rebirth and of the holiness of my vocation. Instead of using my intelligence and reason to praise, thank and bless you, I must confess to my shame today that I sinned against you a thousand times, O most loving of all fathers! And have become unworthy to be called your child. Therefore I beseech you not to remember so much ignorance, such ingratitude, so many sins of my youth: I forsake them from the bottom of my heart and will in order to make reparation for them with the help of your sanctifying grace, to love, serve and honour you with unwavering loyalty all the days of my life. That is why, O divine

Saviour, that you want to take possession of my heart today since you have pity on my deep misery. And it is to answer to this second and abundant mercy on me that I prostrate myself with body and soul at the feet of your adorable majesty to confirm and renew the baptismal vows which were made on my behalf and the obligations I took on me.

I forsake, then, the devil again and from the bottom of my heart, and do not want to have any business with him in future. I renounce all worldliness of the devil, I mean, all the vanities, goods, honour, pleasure, splendour, and in general, all maxims of the world. I renounce all the works of the devil, I mean, all sins and wickedness. I want to attach myself to you alone, O loving Jesus! I want to live and die for you alone. I am firmly resolved to do so, my God! And never allow me to be so unfortunate as to break the promises I now make, but rather strengthen them in me through your grace, and seal them with your precious blood which you are going to give me from the abundance of your love and which I want to receive with the greatest desire. Amen.

O blessed Saviour, where shall I go from you? You have bound me to you with so many bonds of love that no friend, no human person, no creature is bound as much to another one as I am bound to you. You have enlightened me with the true faith, me who am joined to you by innumerable benefits of soul and body. You have fed me so often with your Body and Blood. I am joined to you, O sweet Jesus, with all the veins, with all the nerves, with all the limbs of my body. O sweet Jesus, I give myself totally as a prisoner to you. Blindfold my eyes, so that they may not see vanity. Bind my tongue so that it does not say anything untoward. My hands etc. Bind my will so that I want nothing, wish nothing, will nothing else but you, so that I can say with Paul that I am your prisoner (cf. Eph. 4, 1). In order that I may be heard, I prostrate myself before your feet and say with contrite David: “God take pity on me” (Ps. 4, 1).

O kind and merciful Saviour who said about yourself: “I am the truth” (Jn. 14, 6). I pray in all humility, grant me your divine grace through the merits of your precious blood so that I may always hear your voice and the voice of all those

through whose lips you speak, and that I may order my life accordingly. It is true, I must confess that I have often opposed the obvious truth and have often cheated my fellow men through lies and falseness. I must confess that I have often neglected to listen to your divine inspirations; that I, like Pilate, have not listened to the beneficial admonitions and the advice of my fellow beings. On the contrary, I have listened more to evil advice, to the teachings of the devil. But, Lord Jesus, forgive me my blindness. I am sorry from the bottom of my heart. From now on I always want to listen to the admonitions of father confessors and preachers. Strengthen then my weakness so that I may be converted. Therefore I prostrate myself before you and cry out with the contrite David: “Lord, take pity on me” (Ps. 4, 1).

Blessed and merciful Jesus, who are worthy of all love and deserve to be loved by all creatures, I confess my blindness and foolishness which made me seek rather the friendship of people than your pleasure; I have often offended you, my Creator and my All, in order to retain that friendship. Because this friendship is contrary to yours, and I cannot be your

servant who, like the apostle Paul says: “Am I trying to please human beings? If I were still doing that I should not be a servant of Christ” (Ga. 1, 10). I shall never rest until I can say with you as you said with regard to your Father: “For I always do what pleases you” (Jn.8, 29). For it is an unspeakable happiness to please you. For those who please you are loved by you. And to those whom you love you give your gifts and graces. Therefore it is impossible to be damned. From now on I am firmly resolved always to please and love you even though I have to displease the entire world. Therefore I beg you humbly for your help and assistance. In order then to be heard, I cry out with all the might of my soul with prophet David: “Take pity on me” (Ps. 4, 1).

Merciful and dearest Jesus, I must confess that I was more inclined to follow you to Mount Tabor in order to enjoy your glory, pleasure and mirth than to follow you to the Mount of Olives to suffer with you in your anxiety and distress. I have longed more to be with you at the wedding feast of Cana in Galilee in order to indulge my sensuality by eating and drinking than to be with you in the stable of Bethlehem and suffer

cold, hunger and thirst, poverty and destitution. But now I am won over by your great love for my poor soul. From now on I want to follow you everywhere.

I am ready to suffer with you, for I know very well and ponder the truth of what you said through your apostle Paul: “So our hope for you is secure in the knowledge that you share the encouragement we receive, no less than the sufferings we bear” (2 Co. 1, 7).

O kind and merciful Saviour, I do not want to follow Judas’ example. Though I am a great sinner, though I have often deserved hell, yet I will not despair. I know that your mercy and compassion surpass all my sins and wickedness. I know, O Jesus, that your precious Blood, yes, even the smallest drop of it, suffices to wash away all the sins of the whole world and of thousands of worlds. I know that you are almighty and that you can save me. So I come to you with a sorrowful and contrite heart for all my sins and cry out with the prodigal son: “Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you!” (Lk. 15, 18). I confess that I am unworthy to be called one of your children. But make me as the least

of your servants. With firm hope and trust in your grace, I take refuge in you. In this hope and trust I want to persevere until my dying breath so that you will tell me at my death: “I am your salvation.” Amen.

Kind and merciful Jesus, I come to you, and (if I dare have the confidence) with all my audience as well. I come to you not as Judas with soldiers to betray you, to arrest you and to hand you over to your enemies, but with a contrite and humble heart. We declare and confess openly that we are deeply sorry, from the depths of our souls, with all our power, that we, like Judas, have so often given you that treacherous kiss; that we, like another Joab, have so often abused your divine goodness with the sword of our sins. Give us then the kiss of peace, and friendship. Take us in your arms. Receive us in the embrace of your grace and mercy. All of us fall prostrate at your feet and cry out with the penitent David: “Take pity on me” (Ps. 4, 1).

O kind and blood-covered Saviour,
Bride of my soul, today you showed in the midst of the world that you are not only kind and merciful and the Father of mercy, but that you, yourself, are infinite goodness and mercy. The first blow drew enough blood to wash away all the sins of all humanity. Indeed, a drop was sufficient. And yet, you made your precious Blood flow like fountains in order to show your unending love for man. So many wounds, so many mouths cry out for grace and mercy for us. Jesus, who stood naked against the column, I beg you humbly for us, miserable sinners, that you will quench in us the evil fire of unchastity, nakedness, and lasciviousness, and that you will clothe us with the white robe of sanctifying grace. You who were tied up, bind us with the bond of your love through your help and assistance. You were torn apart and crushed on account of our sins and wickedness. Therefore I pray because of the price of your precious Blood and because of the pain and torture you suffered during the scourging: have mercy on me. And because you know that our misery, our fragility is great, I call out with the prophet David: “Take pity on me” (Ps. 4, 1).

O Christ Jesus, I greatly fear that I am damned forever because you are just. But I also firmly hope to be saved because you are kind and merciful and my highest Good. Your godhead strikes fear in me, but your humanity strengthens my hope.

Lord, wash my head that is so rebellious against you, so vain, so proud, so rash, so covered with the dust of worldly vanity. Wash my head of its impure imagination and unchaste desires. Wash my hands, stained with illegal possessions, covered with the blood of oppressed widows and orphans. Wash my hands, which have reached out so often to indecency and unchastity. Wash my feet, which have so often taken me to secret places and indecent company.

O kind and merciful Jesus, we recognise you as our King. From now on we want to honour, obey, fear and love you always. We want to trust in your mighty help and protection. We want to fight bravely for your glory and for the salvation of our soul. Come to our aid so that, after your example, we never strive

after worldly honour, glory, riches or delight so that we may say: “Direct, Lord, all my senses for your service,” so that we despise the world with all it has to offer and may obtain one day the kingdom of Heaven. Amen.

Kind and merciful Saviour, you know how general the sin of slander is here among some people. You know they depreciate it, how little importance they attach to it; indeed, they are even happy and glad about it. You know what great insult they cause your supreme Truth as you taught differently and showed by your examples as well. Yet I pray for such evil tongues to be enlightened by your grace, and to embrace you and their neighbour with more love so that they may reveal to the world their virtues and good works, and do not slander them. Or at least, if they cannot say good things about their neighbour, that they do not slander him following your example.

Saddened Saviour, I feel ashamed when I see how perfectly you abandon yourself to the Will of your heavenly Father for love of me; when I see with how much love you accept this bitter cup of suffering whereas I am so disobedient and refractory to your commandments and so unwilling to subject my will to your divine will; that I will not drink patiently and lovingly with you the least drop which spills over from your cup.

We come to you, **good and merciful Saviour**, who does not want the death of the sinner. You who draw water from the rock, soften our hard hearts with the dew of your grace, so that like Peter we may shed tears of repentance for our sins. Henceforth, we will avoid all occasions of sin that brought us to sin so often. In one word, together with Peter, we will leave Caiaphas' palace and all occasions that lead to sin; we will shed bitter tears over our past sins. Lord Jesus, turn to us as you turned to Peter, and look at us with eyes full of mercy as you looked at Peter and pierced his heart. Lord Jesus, so that you might listen to our prayer, we throw ourselves at your feet and cry out with David: "Lord, take pity on me" (Ps. 4, 1).



TO MARY OUR MOTHER

O most pure Virgin, you were sanctified from your conception, and you grew in grace till the end of your life. All of us, stained sinners, hasten to you in order to purify our wounded souls by your merciful Son through your intercession.

Therefore we ask for your trust and protection, because the privileges you received and which freed you from the misery that inflicts us cannot but inspire you with mercy. You are the Mother of Mercy for all of us: *Mater misericordiae*. Therefore we kneel before you firmly trusting you, we wretched generation of a sinful mother. However, in you we have found a holy and generous Mother. We cry to you under the heavy yoke of our misery to be relieved of it through your particular help. Do not allow us to ever deviate from duty or grace, but let our heart dry up rather than it should wilfully stop loving you. If I may ask, dear Mother, make our hearts like the heart of young Stanislas, which was sweetly consumed by the ardour of his love for you, so that in the hour of our death our soul, enriched with your grace, may rejoice for eternity with you in whom grace was never fruitless. Amen.

Deign, O glorious Virgin, to support the weak attempts of the least of your servants while, to comfort all oppressed hearts, I will treat of heaven, which you have entered soul and body at the sweetest ringing voices of all the heavenly spirits. This I ask you through your mighty intercession, which you have with the Most High while I greet you with the archangel.



TO PRAY AS A RELIGIOUS

PRAYER FOR REAL PURITY

Almighty God, you have chosen us as Virgins so that we, who are free of sensual bonds, and pure in body and mind, might be yours undividedly.

We thank you for having chosen us, and we are glad to be able to answer your call. We know that your grace has to purify and protect our purity. Help us so that we might die of every impurity, which is rooted in our flesh, of all that is in one way or another impure in our thoughts and feelings. Help us to heed the call in Psalm 10: “Listen, my daughter, attend to my words and hear; forget your own nation and your ancestral home” (Ps. 45, 10). Then you, merciful Father, will be ‘jealous’ of our beauty’ and we will kneel at your feet as brides, ‘as virgins pure for presentation to Christ’ (2 Co. 11, 2). Amen.

PRAYER FOR TRUE POVERTY

Oh Good Lord Jesus, who taught us by the light of the Holy Gospel, to forsake all earthly things, and to adore all celestial things, lead us onto the path of

true poverty, which we had promised to follow when we took our vows.

We have left the world behind us to become your equal; you who did not have a rock to rest your head on. We have freely renounced the whole of the Creation to be able to open our hearts to your endless love.

Merciful Jesus, accept our poverty. We are willing to give up our body and our soul. Make us as poor as you want us to be, so that we might find wealth in you, and inherit your Father's kingdom, and, in the end, might belong to you entirely, and, pure in mind, might praise your infinite mercy eternally. Amen.

PRAYER FOR HUMBLE OBEDIENCE

O Christ Jesus! You, who became a slave, and who were obedient until they crucified you; you have taught us how to give up our own will.

Our hereditary pride, and our personal sins have so often grieved you. Through this vow of obedience we have now been able to give all that we, out of stubbornness, had once refused to give.

Let us, after His example, sacrifice ourselves, not only by suffering with Him, but by bowing humbly and selflessly to the will of our Superiors. Give us the courage to venture into that nothingness for your sake. Give us the courage to be humble.

Because you were obedient until death, the Father glorified you. When we die, allow us to share in your glory, since we will have lived a life of service too. Amen.

