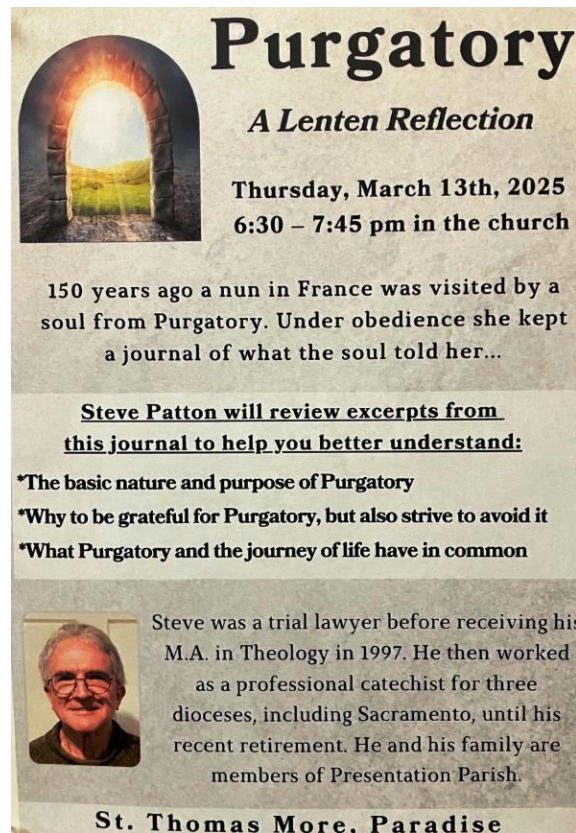


PURGATORY

Excerpts from March 13, 2025 talk by Steve Patton (see below):




Purgatory
A Lenten Reflection

Thursday, March 13th, 2025
6:30 – 7:45 pm in the church

150 years ago a nun in France was visited by a soul from Purgatory. Under obedience she kept a journal of what the soul told her...

Steve Patton will review excerpts from this journal to help you better understand:

- *The basic nature and purpose of Purgatory
- *Why to be grateful for Purgatory, but also strive to avoid it
- *What Purgatory and the journey of life have in common

 Steve was a trial lawyer before receiving his M.A. in Theology in 1997. He then worked as a professional catechist for three dioceses, including Sacramento, until his recent retirement. He and his family are members of Presentation Parish.

St. Thomas More. Paradise

The best sources of information for matters of faith are, in order of priority: the Bible ([Purgatory in the Bible](#)), the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC), and private revelation. CCC Paragraph 67 clearly states the place for private revelation:

Throughout the ages, there have been so-called “private” revelations, some of which have been recognized by the authority of the Church. They do not belong, however, to the deposit of faith. It is not their role to improve or complete Christ’s definitive Revelation, but to help live more fully by it in a certain period of history. Guided by the magisterium of the Church, the *sensus fidelium* knows how to discern and welcome in these revelations whatever constitutes an authentic call of Christ or his saints to the Church.

Christian faith cannot accept “revelations” that claim to surpass or correct the Revelation of which Christ is the fulfillment, as is the case in certain non-Christian religions and also in certain recent sects which base themselves on such “revelations.”

An Unpublished Manuscript on Purgatory, a record of private revelation from a soul in Purgatory (Sister M.G.) to a nun in France (Sister M. de L.C.), received a *nihil obstat* from the local Bishop when it was printed. This means that it has received certification by an official censor that the manuscript is not objectionable on doctrinal or moral grounds. Most of this talk is taken from this manuscript which contains the private revelation from this soul in Purgatory (Sister M.G.) speaking to a nun in France (Sister M. de L.C.) who related these revelations from 1874 to 1890 in a manuscript. See [SELECTED PASSAGES](#) from this journal used in this talk .The entire journal may be downloaded [HERE](#).

The Catechism of the Catholic Church contains [three paragraphs](#) (1030, 1031, 1032) on Purgatory. Nothing in this private revelation contradicts the teaching in these three paragraphs.

Historical background: See **Comments from the Introduction**, Selected Passages, p. 1.

What happens immediately after Death: See **Comments from the Introduction**, Selected Passages, p. 1-2.

Related notes from the Comments and the talk:

- The soul is surrounded by God
- In a bewildering light, the soul sees its entire life, not in a linear view but as a whole picture
- The soul feels annihilated in God's view
- This confirms what St. Catherine of Genoa's [*Treatise on Purgatory*](#) states: "The souls who are in Purgatory cannot, as I understand, choose but be there, and this is by God's ordinance who therein has done justly. In fact, the soul sees this purification as an act of God's burning charity and would rather suffer this a thousand times rather than go straight to heaven."
- There is no peace in Purgatory
- It's like the mud room of your house: you are in the house but not on the carpet
- It is always possible to loose our salvation on earth, but not in Purgatory
- You do not see God in Purgatory
- Earth seems like a speck to those in Purgatory compared to the eternal horizon opened up to those in Purgatory

What Purgatory is like: See **Comments from the Introduction**, Selected Passages, p. 2-3.

- Lowest level
 - A place for sinners who had terrible sins in their lives
 - Prayers of holy parents help them get there.
 - Some had no time to confess their sins but were contrite and performed acts of charity in their lives
 - There were some moments of light in their lives lived in darkness both receiving and transmitting good.
 - There is a need to burn off the crust of all the darkness.
 - Purgatory is like Hell, but we thank God for saving us.
 - Analogy: Steve recalled taking time off during his paper route to collect bottles from a ditch. Some bottles were very crusty with dirt but could be washed to be redeemed. Others appeared to be okay but were broken beyond redemption. The crusty ones are like the souls at this level in Purgatory.
- Next level
 - A place for sinners not guilty of great crimes, but they were indifferent to God
 - Some priests and religious may be here. Much was given to them and so much will be expected.
 - Some may have been too fond of giving retreats instead of caring for their local parishes.
 - A place for those who died with venial and/or mortal sins what were confessed, absolved, but not expiated
 - The Divine Mercy novena ending the Sunday after Easter is one of the best opportunities for expiation.
- Purgatory of desire
 - Called the *Threshold* which very few escape
 - Those who are afraid of God and lack a sufficiently strong desire for Heaven
 - They suffer the lack of seeing our loving Jesus
 - Suffering is great as they sense coming closer to the full glory of God

Do the souls in Purgatory have a more perfect knowledge of God than we do on earth?

- On earth you simply do not know what God is.
- You have too many earthly distractions
- It's like a banana. Imagining it and seeing it are entirely different.

How long souls stay in Purgatory: See **Comments from the Introduction**, Selected Passages, p. 3.

Spiritual advice to help us minimize our stay in Purgatory or perhaps even avoid it entirely. See **Comments from the Introduction, Selected Passages**, p. 3.

- Live in the presence of God.
- Love God for his own sake not our own sake; like loving a spouse for his/her own sake.
- Be one of his true friends.
- Treat God as Father and spouse.
- Pour out you love for Jesus.
- Give unceasing love and mortification.

In what does true sanctity consist? See **Comments from the Introduction, Selected Passages**, p. 4.

- Renounce yourself morning to night.
- Put yourself aside.
- Let God work in you. Live in the Divine Presence.
- All the rest is pure illusion
- Our good works must be done for God alone, not for self-benefit or for recognition.
- Desire intimacy with God with no self-focus.
- Our lives on earth with days and nights do not compare to the eternal light.
- Don't be scared of death; be prepared for it.
- The short time we have on earth is nothing compared to eternity.
- Pure love is sanctifying our heart to be with the Sacred Heart of Jesus.
- Speak to the Lord as with your best friend.

Live not just for heaven but for greatness in heaven. See **Comments from the Introduction, Selected Passages**, p. 4.

- Aim at what will never end. Let love shine in us and through us.
- The more a soul loves God on earth, the higher it advances in perfection, and the more it will love and understand God in Heaven.

What Heaven is like:

- Ever new
- Always new happiness
- A torrent of joy
- Above all and beyond all, it is Being with God.

Near death books' conclusions:

- Live every day as if it were your last. One day you will get it right.
- Every thought and action should be as if were your last.
- Work out your salvation with fear and trembling.
- In the evening of life we will be judged by love.