

The
MAGNIFICENT
PRAYERS

of Saint Bridget of Sweden

PRAYER
BEFORE READING

Come, Holy Ghost, fill the hearts of thy faithful and kindle in them the fire of thy love.

V. Send forth Thy Spirit and they shall be created.

R. And Thou shalt renew the face of the earth.

Let Us Pray.

O God, Who didst instruct the hearts of the faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit, grant that, by the gift of the same Spirit, we may be always truly wise, and ever rejoice in His consolation. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

The
MAGNIFICENT
PRAYERS
of Saint Bridget of Sweden

Based on the Passion and Death of
Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

Taken from
The Revelations of Saint Bridget

*"If any man will come after me, let him deny himself,
and take up his cross, and follow me. For he that will save
his life, shall lose it: and he that shall lose his life for my
sake, shall find it."* —Matt. 16:24-25

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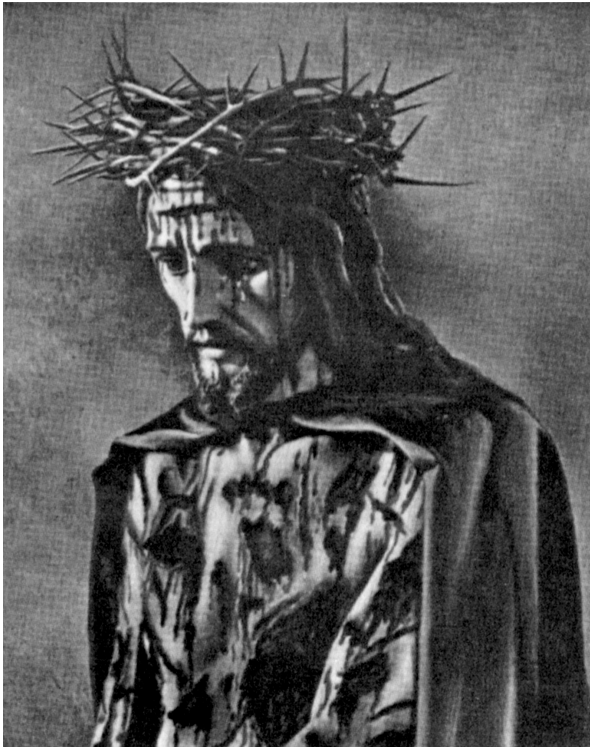
The Magnificent Prayers were copied from a book printed in Toulouse in 1740 and published by Father Adrien Parvilliers of the Society of Jesus, Missionary Apostolic of the Holy Land, with the approbation, permission and recommendation to spread the devotion. At the time of St. Bridget in the 14th century, printing had not yet been invented, and books had to be reproduced by copyists. Pope Urban VI encouraged the multiplication of copies of *The Revelations of St. Bridget*, from which these prayers have been taken. Kings, bishops, universities, convents and libraries were clamoring for them.

The books containing these prayers have been approved by a great number of prelates, among them His Eminence Cardinal Giraud of Cambria in 1845 and Archbishop Florian of Toulouse in 1863. *The Revelations of St. Bridget* were blessed by His Holiness Pope Pius IX on May 31, 1862. Finally, they were recommended by the great Congress of Malines on August 22, 1863.

Those who visit the Church of St. Paul in Rome can see the life-size crucifix sculptured by Pietro Cavallini, before which St. Bridget knelt, and there can read the following inscription: "*Pendentis pendente Dei verba accepit aure accipit at verbum corde Brigitta Deum. Anno Jubilei MCCCCL*," which recalls the prodigy of the crucifix conversing with St. Bridget. (Translation: "Bridget not only receives the words of God hanging in the air, but takes the word of God into her heart. Jubilee Year 1350.")

For many years *The Magnificent Prayers* were published with twenty-one promises given to her, according to St. Bridget, by Our Lord, along with the prayers. These promises offered wonderful graces and benefits to those who, for one year, recite the prayers, as well as graces for members of their families. Originally, the prayers were published along with the promises under the title *The Magnificent*

Promises. But on January 28, 1954, the Holy Office in Rome issued a Monitum prohibiting publication of the twenty-one promises. (See *Acta Apostolicae Sedis*, XLVI [1954]:64.) The Holy Office warned that the supernatural origin of the promises has not been proved in any way. No proscription, however, was issued against the prayers themselves. Faithful to that directive, we have here issued *The Magnificent Prayers* without the attending promises. It is our conviction that Our Divine Savior wants us to say these prayers in order to honor His Passion and death, and that we, for our part, should trust in Him to shower us and those for whom we pray with such graces as He in His tender mercy wants to bestow. The purpose for which these prayers have been printed in this inexpensive format is to promote devotion to the Passion of Our Lord, and it is our hope and prayer that the Faithful will circulate them widely, realizing—as *many* saints have deposed—that meditating on the Passion is most efficacious for our own spiritual growth and most pleasing to Our Divine Lord.





The Image of the Holy Face of Jesus
Taken from the Shroud of Turin



SAINT BRIDGET OF SWEDEN

St. Brigitte or St. Bridget, daughter of Birgir, royal blood prince of Sweden, was born about the year 1302 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, and 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 at 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 throughout the year. She founded the Brigittines.



St. Bridget of Sweden (1302-1373)

FIRST PRAYER

Our Father—Hail Mary

O Jesus Christ! Eternal Sweetness to those who love Thee, Joy surpassing all joy and all desire, Salvation and Hope of all sinners, Thou Who hast proved that Thou hast no greater desire than to be amongst men, even assuming human nature during the course of time for love of men, recall all the sufferings which Thou hast endured from the first moment 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 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 Thou didst experience in Thy soul as Thou prayed: "My soul is sorrowful even unto death."

Remember all the fear, anguish, and pain Thou didst suffer in Thy delicate body before the Crucifixion when, after having prayed three separate 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: all this in the flower of Thy youth and during the solemn Paschal season.

Remember that Thou wast despoiled of Thy garments and clothed with the garments of derision; that Thy face and eyes were veiled; that Thou wast buffeted, crowned with thorns, a scepter placed in Thy hands; that Thou wast fastened to a column and 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 that before I die, I may make with true contrition a sincere and entire Confession, make worthy satisfaction, and be granted the remission of all my sins. Amen.

