

Mrs. Ben May of Colwich, Kansas, writes:

"I was shocked when I read in SOUL Magazine that Our Lady of Fatima said that the young woman Amelia [who was between 18 and 20 years old] was to be in purgatory until the end of time. One person to whom I said this said that she would quit ordering a magazine that said something like that because Our Lady is compassionate and merciful and not a judge. Why did you publish such a thing?"

"Our Lady Is Not A Judge!"

(ANSWER BY
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Father Messias Coelho, recently appointed Rector of the Minor Seminary of the Diocese of Guarda in Portugal, made a detailed study of this. He talked to the family of Amelia and learned that Jacinta herself had told the family that they should now pray for Amelia so that she would be soon released from purgatory!

"A Great and Merciful Lesson"

So it is evident that what Our Lady intended was that Amelia's soul was in such a condition at the moment of her death that she would be in purgatory until the end of time. Father Messias discovered that the family had stopped praying for her. They thought she would be in heaven.

So in this revelation, Our Lady of Fatima taught us all a great and merciful lesson.

A "Saint" in Purgatory

Often when a "good" person dies—especially a daily Communicant—we speak of how holy that person was and that they must certainly be in heaven. We may



pray for them briefly and then forget.

But Blessed Claude de la Colombiere, the one chosen by God to make known from Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque the devotion of the Sacred Heart, was in purgatory for two days. (Our Lord revealed this to St. Margaret Mary.) And if this could happen to a "saint," then what must be the case of the average holy person?

Most of us do not understand the great evil of sin. Many think that only mortal sins are important!

God is infinitely Good. Only souls in absolute perfection are able to withstand the impact of the beatific vision. And who of us at the moment of death is that perfect?

There is a great lesson in the condemnation of Amelia to purgatory "until the end of the world" and let us take it to heart in these ways:

What We Can Do...

- 1) Let us all strive to obtain the promise of the Five First Saturdays and the Sabbatine privilege!
- 2) Let us remember daily to pray for the souls in purgatory (especially those who most depend upon our prayers to shorten the time of their purification).
- 3) Let us not forget to continue our prayers for the good and holy persons we have known even though we think they may already be in heaven (as was the case with the family of Amelia).