

*Intercessory Poetry*

To our Blessed Lady, the Advocate of Sinners (Bodleian)

[fol. 10v] All hail, O Virgin crowned with stars,  
And moon under thy feet;<sup>1</sup>  
Obtain us pardon of our sins  
Of Christ, our Savior sweet;  
For though th'art<sup>2</sup> Mother of my God 5  
Yet thy humility  
Disdaineth not this simple wretch,  
That flies for help to thee.

Thou knowest thou art more dear to me 10  
Than any can express,  
And that I do congratulate  
With joy thy happiness;

[f. 11r] Thou who art Queen of heaven & earth,  
Thy helping hand me lend 15  
That I may love & praise my God,  
And have a happy end.

And though my sins me terrify,  
Yet, hoping still in thee, 20  
I find my soul refreshed much  
When to thee I do fly;  
For thou most willingly to God  
Petitions dost present,  
And dost obtain much grace for us 25  
In this our banishment.

The honor and the glorious praise  
By all be given thee,  
Which Jesus, thy beloved son, 30  
Ordain'd eternally  
For thee, whom he exalts in heaven  
Above the angels all,  
And whom we sinners find a Mother  
When unto thee we call. 35

O Mater Dei, memento mei.<sup>3</sup>  
Amen.

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<sup>1</sup> "And a great sign appeared in heaven: A woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars" (Apocalypse 12:1, Douay-Rheims Bible).

<sup>2</sup> Thou art.

<sup>3</sup> "O Mother of God, remember me."

To Our Blessed Lady, the Advocate of Sinners (1658)

[279] All hail, *O Virgin*, crowned with stars,  
and Moon under thy feet;<sup>4</sup>  
Obtain us pardon of our sins  
of *Christ* our *Savior* sweet.

[280] For though thou art Mother of my *God*, 5  
yet thy Humility  
Disdaineth not this simple wretch  
that flies for help to thee.  
Thou knowest thou art more dear to me 10  
than any can express,  
And that I do congratulate  
with joy thy happiness;  
Who art the Queen of Heaven and earth,  
thy helping hand me lend,  
That I may *love* and praise my *God*, 15  
and have a happy end.  
And though my sins me terrify,  
yet hoping still in thee,  
I find my soul refreshed much 20  
when I unto thee fly.  
For thou most willingly to *God*  
petitions dost present,  
And dost obtain much grace for us  
in this our banishment.  
The honor and the glorious praise 25  
by all be given to thee,  
Which *Jesus thy* beloved Son  
ordained eternally  
For thee, whom he exalts<sup>5</sup> in heaven 30  
above the Angels all,  
And whom we find a Patroness,  
when unto thee we call.

*Amen.*

*O Mater Dei,*  
*Memento mei,*<sup>6</sup> *Amen.*

To our most Holy Father Saint Benedict (1658)

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<sup>4</sup> “And a great sign appeared in heaven: A woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars” (Apocalypse 12:1, Douay-Rheims Bible).

<sup>5</sup> Praise; elevate in rank.

<sup>6</sup> “O Mother of God, remember me.”

[281] Most glorious *Father*, in whose School<sup>7</sup>  
I live and hope to die,  
*God* grant I may observe<sup>8</sup> thy *Rule*,  
For in that all doth lie.  
For no perfection can be named, 5  
Which us it doth not teach.  
O happy she, who in her soul,  
The sense thereof doth reach!  
But many praise Obedience  
And thy humility, 10  
And yet conceive<sup>9</sup> not as they should,  
What either of them be.  
The simple humble *loving* souls  
Only the sense find out  
Of any discreet, obedient *Rule*, 15  
And these are void of doubt.  
Yea, under shadow of thy wings  
They up to heaven fly,  
And taste here in this vale of tears  
What perfect *peace* doth lie, 20  
Hid in performance of thy *Rule*  
That leadeth unto heaven;  
[282] O happy souls who it perform,  
The ways so sweet and even!  
By Prayer and Patience it's fulfilled, 25  
Charity, Obedience,  
By seeking after *God* alone,  
And giving none offense.  
The more I look upon thy *Rule*,  
The more in it I find; 30  
O do to me the sense unfold,  
For letter makes us blind!<sup>10</sup>  
And blessed, yea, a thousand times,  
Be thou who it hast writ,  
And thy sweet blessing give to them, 35  
Who truly perform it.  
For those are they which will conserve<sup>11</sup>  
This house in perfect *peace*,

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<sup>7</sup> A reference to the Prologue of the Benedictine Rule, which refers to the Benedictine monastery as a “school of God’s service” (*Dominici schola servitii*).

<sup>8</sup> Obey.

<sup>9</sup> Understand.

<sup>10</sup> “Who also hath made us fit ministers of the new testament, not in the letter, but in the spirit. For the letter killeth, but the spirit quickeneth” (2 Corinthians 3:6, Douay-Rheims Bible).

<sup>11</sup> Protect.

Without which all we do is lost,  
    And all that's good will cease. 40  
And praised be our glorious *God*,  
    Who gave to thee such grace,  
Not only *him* thyself to seek,  
    But also out to trace  
A way so easy and secure, 45  
    If we will but thee hear,<sup>12</sup>  
To have relation to our *God*,  
    Who is to us so near.  
For at this thou dost chiefly aim:  
    That *God* our souls do teach. 50  
O if we did truly obey,  
    *He* would by all things preach  
*His will* to us by everything  
    That did to us befall;  
[283] And then as thou desir'st it should 55  
    *He* would be *all in all*-  
O pray dear Father that he ever be,  
    our only *love* and all eternally. *Amen.*

O Glorious Saint whose heart did burn (1658)

[15] *O Glorious Saint*<sup>13</sup> *whose heart did burn*  
    *And flame with Love Divine,*  
    *Remember me, most sinful wretch,*<sup>14</sup>  
    *Who hunger-starved doth pine*  
*For want of that which thou enjoyest* 5  
    *In such abundant measure.*  
*It is my God that I do mean*  
    *My joy, and all my treasure.*  
*Thy words, o Saint, are truly sweet*  
    *Because thou dost address* 10  
*Them unto him who's only meet*<sup>15</sup>  
    *Our miseries to redress.*

**Doggerel Poetry**

O Lord my God, to thee I do aspire (Bodleian)

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<sup>12</sup> The Prologue to the Benedictine Rule begins with the word "hearken" (ausculta).

<sup>13</sup> Saint Augustine.

<sup>14</sup> Unfortunate or miserable person.

<sup>15</sup> Fit.

[fol. 95v] O Lord my God, to thee I do aspire,  
And only thee in soul I do desire;  
No gift or grace, how great s'e'er<sup>16</sup> it be,  
Can satiate<sup>17</sup> her, who nothing seeks but thee.

O let me rather death embrace (Bodleian)

[fol. 119v] O let me rather death embrace,  
Before I thee<sup>18</sup> offend;  
Or in my heart do leave a place  
For any other friend.

From Multiplicity and dejection (Baker's *Life*, Ampleforth)

[393] From Multiplicity<sup>19</sup> and dejection<sup>20</sup>  
that would breed our souls' confusion,  
defend us Lord with thy Benediction.<sup>21</sup>

Deus meus impleat omne desiderium meum<sup>22</sup> (Baker's *Life*, Ampleforth)

[454] For none but he  
can satiate<sup>23</sup> me.  
  
In heart where love is seated,  
nothing but love is treated.

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<sup>16</sup> Soever.

<sup>17</sup> Satisfy.

<sup>18</sup> God.

<sup>19</sup> Spiritual distraction.

<sup>20</sup> Sadness.

<sup>21</sup> Blessing.

<sup>22</sup> "May God fulfill all my desire."

<sup>23</sup> Satisfy.