

Intercessory Poetry

To our Blessed Laidy the Aduocate of Sinners (Bodleian)

[fol. 10v]	All haile o virgin crowned w th sta ^r es And Moone vnder thy feet ¹ Obteine vs pardon of our sinnes of Christ our Sauioir sweet For though th'art Mother of my God Yet thy humilitie Disdaineth not this simple wrech y ^t flies for helpe to thee	5
	Thou knowest thou art more deare to me Then anie cane expresse And that I doe congratulate w th ioye thy happines	10
[f. 11r]	Thou who art Queene of heauen & Earth Thy helping hand me lend That I may loue & praise my God And haue an happie End	15
	And though my sinnes me terrifie yet hoping still in thee I find my Soule refreshed much when to thee I doe flie, For thou most willingly to God Petitions do'st present And do'st obteine much grace for vs In this our banishment	20 25
	The honour and y ^e glorious praise By all be giuen thee Which Iesus thy beloued Sonne Ordain'd Eternallie For thee; whome he exalts in heauen aboue y ^e Angels all And whome wee sinners finde a Mother When vnto thee wee call.	30 35
	O Mater Dei, Memento Mei. ² Amen.	

¹ “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).

² “O Mother of God, remember me.”

To Ovr Blessed Lady the Aduocate of Sinners (1658)

[279] Al hail, *O Virgin*, crownd with stars,
aund Moone vnder thy feet,³
Obtaine vs pardon of our sinnes
of *Christ* our *Sauour* sweet.

[280] For though thou art Mother of my *God*, 5
yet thy Humility
Disdaineth not this simple wretch,
that flyes for helpe to thee.
Thou knowst thou art more deare to me, 10
then any can expresse,
And that I do congratulate
with ioy thy happinesse;
Who art the Queen of Heauen and earth,
thy helping hand me lend,
That I may *loue* and praise my *God*, 15
and haue a happy end.
And though my sins me terrify,
yet hoping stil in *thee*
I find my soul refreshed much 20
when I vnto thee fly.
For thou most willingly to *God*
petitions dost present,
And dost obtain much grace for vs
in this our banishment.
The honour and the glorious praise 25
by al be giuen to thee,
Which *Jesus thy* beloued Son
ordaind eternally
For thee, whom he exalts in heauen
about the Angels al, 30
And whom we find a Patronesse,
when vnto thee we cal.

Amen.

O Mater Dei,
*Memento me.*⁴ *Amen.*

To our most Holy Father Saint Benedict (1658)

³ “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).

⁴ “O Mother of God, remember me.”

- [281] Most glorious *Father* in whose School,⁵
I liue and hope to dye,
God grant I may obserue thy *Rule*,
for in that al doth lye.
For no perfection can be named, 5
which vs 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 conceaue not as they should,
what either of them be.
The simple humble *louing* souls
only the sense find out
Of any discret obedient *Rule*, 15
and these are void of doubt.
Yea vnder shadow of thy wings
they vp to heauen fly,
And tast heere in this vaile of teares
what perfect *peace* doth lye, 20
Hid in performance of thy *Rule*
that leadeth vnto heauen;
- [282] O happy souls who it performe,
the ways so sweet and euen!
By Prayer and Patience its fulfilled, 25
Charity, Obedience,
By seeking after *God* alone,
and giuing none offence.
The more I looke vpon thy *Rule*,
the more in it I find, 30
O do to me the sense vnfold,
For letter makes vs blind!⁶
And blessed, yea a thousand times,
Be thou who it hast writ,
And thy sweet blessing giue to them, 35
who truly performe it.
For those are they which wil conserue
this house in perfect *peace*,
Without which al we do, is lost,
and al thats good wil cease. 40
And praised be our glorious *God*,
who gaue to thee such grace,

⁵ A reference to the Prologue of the Benedictine Rule, which refers to the Benedictine monastery as a “school of God’s service.”

⁶ “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).

Not only *him* thy-self to seeke,
but also out to trace
A way so easy and secure, 45
if we wil but thee heare,
To haue relation to our *God*,
who is to vs so neere,
For at this thou dost chiefly aime,
that *God* our souls do teach. 50
O if we did truly obey,
he would by al things preach
His *wil* to vs by euery thing
that did to vs befall;
[283] And then as thou desirst it should 55
he would be *al in al*—
O pray deare Father that he euer be,
our only *loue* and *al* eternally. *Amen.*

O Glorious Saint whose hart did burne (1658)

[15] *O Glorious Saint*⁷ *whose hart did burne,*
And flame with Loue Diuine,
Remember me most sinneful wretch,
Who hunger staru'd doth pine.
For want of that which thou enjoyest, 5
In such aboundant measure;
It is my God that I doe meane,
My ioy, and all my treasure.
Thy words O Saint are truly sweet,
Beclus thou dost adresse 10
Them vnto him who's only meet
Our mis'ries to redresse.

⁷ Saint Augustine.