

First True Story St. Antoninus and his Friend

St. Antoninus, the illustrious Archbishop of Florence, relates that a pious gentleman and a great friend of the Dominican Convent in which the Saint resided, died.

Many Masses and suffrages were offered for his soul. The Saint was very much afflicted when, after the lapse of a long time, the soul of the poor gentleman appeared to him, suffering excruciating pains.

"Oh, my dear friend" exclaimed the Archbishop, "are you still in Purgatory, you who led such a pious and devout life?"

"Yes, and I shall remain there still for a long time," replied the poor sufferer, "for when on Earth, I neglected to offer suffrages for the souls in Purgatory. Now God by a just judgment, has applied the suffrages which have been offered for me to those souls for whom I should have prayed." "But God too, in his justice, will give me all the merits of my good works when I enter Heaven, but first of all I have to expiate my grave neglect in regard to others."

So true are the words of Our Lord: "***By that measure with which you measure, it will be measured to you again.***" Remember you who read these lines, that the terrible fate of this pious gentleman will be the fate of all those who neglect to pray for and refuse to help the holy souls."

[Story taken from page 20, in the book **Read Me or Rue It, How to Avoid Purgatory** (by Fr. Paul O'Sullivan O.P.)