



THE FORGOTTEN SACRAMENTAL

The Sacramentals of Holy Mother the Church serve as spiritual bridges much like that of a physical bridge. Sacramentals do not save souls, but they are a means of securing heavenly help for those who use them properly and devoutly.

There is a vast difference between the Sacraments and Sacramentals: The former were instituted by Christ; Sacramentals are founded by the Church. The Sacraments produce grace directly while the Sacramentals give us the help of grace necessary to make it easy to obtain an increase in Sanctifying Grace and the forgiveness of our sins. Sacramentals must be used with confidence, reverence and abiding faith.

The Agnus Dei is the most ancient and potent Sacramental of the Church, yet it is little known today. The Agnus Dei is a wax disc impressed with the figure of a lamb and blessed by the reigning Pope in the first year of his pontificate and every seven years thereafter. They are made of pure bees wax symbolical of the human nature of Christ Who took Flesh in the most pure womb of His Blessed Mother without stain of sin; the lamb is symbolical of that Immaculate Lamb immolated on the Cross for the salvation of the human race: It is immersed in holy water, and mixed with balsam to signify the sweet savor of Christ and His chrism, which is symbolic of chastity. In days gone by, every new Bishop was provided with an Agnus Dei to carry in his Bishops mitre.

The Agnus Dei fosters piety, banishes tepidity, preserves us from vice and disposes us to virtue. This powerful Sacramental cancels venial sins and purifies the stain left by grievous sin after it has been remitted in the Sacrament of Penance. The Agnus Dei banishes evil spirits, delivers us from temptation and preserves us from eternal ruin. It is a protection from a sudden and unprovided death. It dispels fears occasioned by evil spirits. The Agnus Dei is a protection in combat and has the power to ensure victory! It delivers from poison and the snares of the wicked. It is an excellent preventive against sickness, and is most efficacious especially in cases of epilepsy. The Agnus Dei hinders the ravages of pestilence, of epidemics and of infectious disease. It quiets the winds, dissipates hurricanes and keeps away tempests. The Agnus Dei saves from shipwreck and the danger of lightening and floods. Lastly, it preserves mothers and babies from peril and obtains for mothers a safe and easy delivery.

What a lamentable woe for us to realize that the Church no longer blesses the Agnus Dei wax and so its protection and defense of the faithful and religious is lost while the ramparts of the Church remain exposed and unprotected. Let us do all we can to revive the devotion of the Agnus Dei!

**O Mary, thou art especially vigilant in protecting those devoted to thee.
Defend me from the snares of the devil and keep me ever safe in thy loving care.**

THE LIVING ROSARY, P.O. BOX 1303, DICKINSON, TX 77539, USA