

Remedium contra Pestem

*A Prayer for Aid
Against the Plague*

BERNARDO SANNIG

R O M A E

José Castells, 1842

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Bernhard Sannig, OFM. *Collectio Absolutionum Benedictionum Conjuracionum Exorcismorum, Rituum, et Ceremoniarum Ecclesiarum, et Administrationis Sacramentorum; nec non Modum Visitande et Adjuvandi Infirmos, Opus Parochis, et Curam Animarum Gerentibus Perutile, et Necessarium*. Rome: José Castells, 1842. Pp. 245–251.

Translation of the blessings and prayers by the Revd Dr Melanie Marshall
and of the Characteres, and some probably faulty emendations, by the Revd Dr A K M Adam

Text in Igino Marini's Fell English Pro Roman and Italic

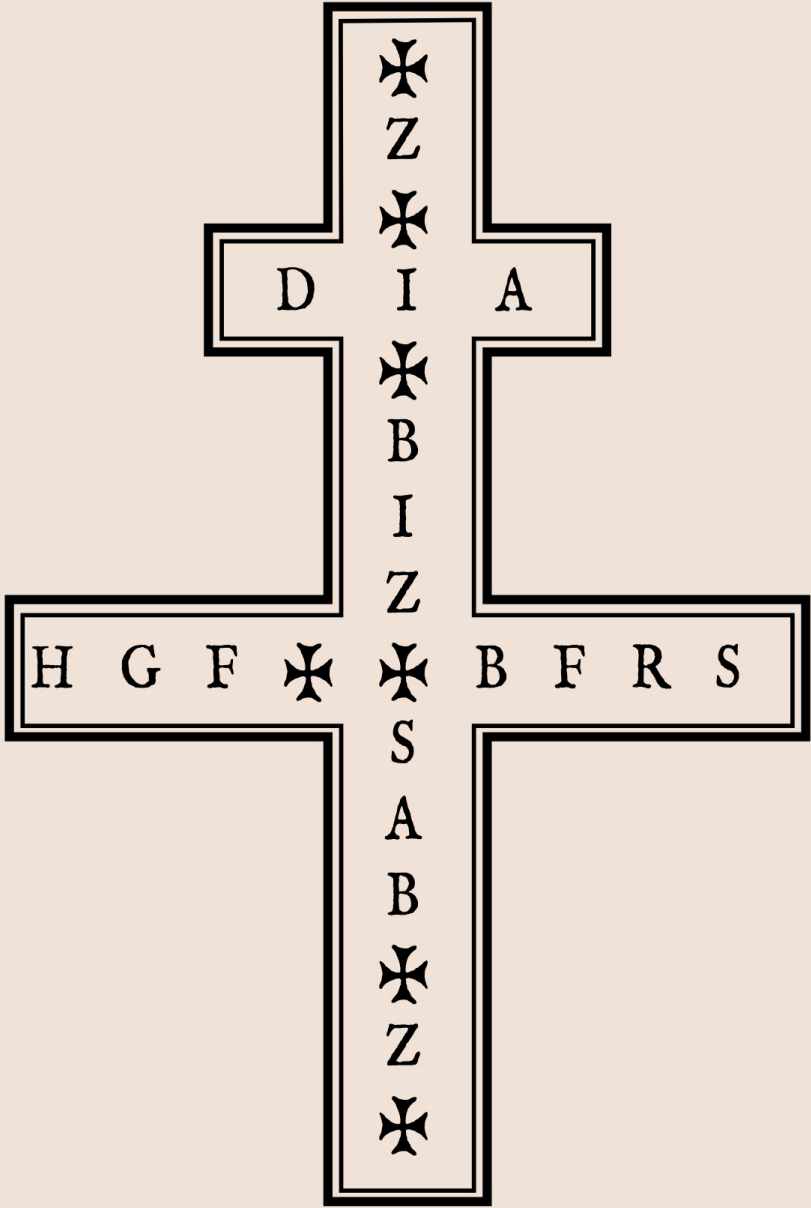
(When praying the prayers for the letters of the cross, observe the somewhat eccentric ordering, such that the prayers go first down to the short crossbar, then follow the crossbar horizontally, then go vertically to the bottom of the cross, only then following the second, longer horizontal crossbar (and skipping the '✠' that will already have been prayed.)

Version 1.0 (June 2020)

Version 1.1 (July 2020)

Oxford: Quadriga, 2020





Explanation of the Characters

- ✠ O Cross of Christ, save me.
- Z. May zeal for your house deliver me.
- ✠ The Cross conquers; the Cross reigns; the Cross rules; by the sign of the Cross deliver me, O Lord, from this plague.
- D. O God, my God, drive this plague away from me, and from this place, and deliver me.
- I. Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit, my heart, and my body.
- A. God was before heaven and earth; and God is able to deliver me from this plague.
- ✠ The Cross of Christ has the power to drive the plague from this place and from my body.
- B. It is good to wait in silence for God's help, that he may drive this plague from me.
- I. I will incline my heart to fulfil your commandments, and I will not be confounded, for I have called upon you.
- Z. I was grieved at the wicked, seeing the prosperity of sinners; I have trusted in you.
- ✠ May the Cross of Christ put to flight demons, and drive away foul air and plague.
- S. I am your Salvation, says the Lord; cry out to me, and I will hear you, and I will deliver you from this plague.
- A. Deep calls to deep, and your voice will drive out demons; deliver me from this plague.
- B. Blessed be the man who trusts in the Lord, who does not regard the proud, nor those who go about with lies.
- ✠ May the Cross of Christ, which was once the cause of shame and reproach, and is now in glory and dignity, be my salvation, and drive the Devil from this place, and foul air and plague from my body.

- Z. May zeal for the honor of God convert me before I die,
and in your name save me from this plague.
- ✠ May the sign of the Cross deliver the people of God,
and those who put their faith in him, from the plague.
- H. Is this how you repay the Lord, you foolish people?
Pay your vows, offering him a sacrifice of praise and faith,
because he is able to deliver this place, and me, from this plague;
that those who put their faith in him will never be confounded.
- G. May my tongue stick in my throat and to the roof of my mouth
if I do not praise you; deliver those who trust in you; in you I trust;
O God, deliver me and this place in which your name is called upon,
from this plague.
- F. There was darkness over the all the earth at your death, O Lord;
my God, may the power of the Devil be fleeting and dark,
for you came for this reason, O Son of the living God:
to destroy the works of the Devil with your power,
may your power drive this plague from this place and from me, your servant;
and the foul air depart from me into the outer darkness.
- ✠ O Cross of Christ, defend us and drive the plague from this place,
and deliver your servant from this plague, you who are kind, and merciful,
and of many mercies, and true.
- B. Blessed is he who does not regard the proud,
nor those who go about with lies;
on the day of evil the Lord will deliver him; Lord, I have trusted in you;
deliver me from this plague.
- F. God is become my refuge;
because I have trusted in you, deliver me from this plague.
- R. Look upon me, O Lord my God,
Adonai, from the seat of your Holy Majesty,
and have mercy on me, and for the sake of your mercy,
deliver me from this plague.

S. You are my Salvation: heal me, and I will be healed;
save me, and I will be saved.

Let these letters be blessed by the Priest

BLESSING OF THE CHARACTERS OF A CROSS

Ÿ. Our help is in the name of the Lord

Ŕ. Who made heaven and earth

Ÿ. The Lord be with you.

Ŕ. And with your spirit.

LET US PRAY:

Almighty God, giver of all good things and bountiful bestower of all blessings, we humbly beseech you to pour out into our hands the riches of your blessing, and be pleased to bless these characters and letters prepared for the binding of demons and driving away of diseases by the power of the Holy Spirit, and by use of all these things kindly grant us soundness of mind and body and the grace of sanctification; so that in your sight they may appear holy and spotless and without reproach, and by the help of pity may mercifully escape the snares of the hidden foe. Through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Ŕ. *Amen.*

LET US PRAY:

Lord Jesus Christ, who for the redemption of the world willed to be born of a virgin, circumcised in Your most sacred flesh, despised by his own people, betrayed with a kiss by the perfidious Judas, bound in fetters, led to the slaughter like an innocent lamb, and disgracefully arraigned before Annas, Caiaphas, Pilate, and Herod, accused by false witnesses, scourged with whips and insults, besmirched with spittle, crowned with thorns, cut with blows, struck with reeds, shrouded in face, stripped of your garments, crucified, posted between bandits, refreshed with gall and vinegar, and pierced with a

spear; You, Lord, by these your Most Holy sufferings, which I am unworthy to recount, and by your Most Holy Cross and Death, deliver this place and all who dwell in it, and me your servant, and all those who by writings and by these characters call upon your Holy Name from this plague, and drive it out, with all the snares of the Devil's deceit, and restore us all to perfect health, breaking the chains of every kind of evil. *R. Amen.*

Exorcism of St Zacharias

{Since the exercise of the ministry of exorcism is reserved to clergy authorised by the bishop, this prayer is not of general usefulness.}

LET US PRAY:

God, who are affronted by guilt and pleased by penitence: look with favour on the humble prayers of your people, and turn away the scourge of your anger, which for our sins we have deserved.

God, who justifies the wicked and desires not the death of a sinner, we humbly beseech your Majesty, kindly protect with your heavenly aid your servants who trust in your mercy, and preserve them by your continual help, that they may perpetually serve you, and that no temptation may separate them from you; Through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. *R. Amen.*

BLESSING

May your faithful people receive your ✠ blessing, Lord, and by it may they be preserved in body and mind, and show forth lasting service, and always enjoy the blessings of your favour.

LET US PRAY:

Grant us your servants, we beseech you Lord God, to rejoice everlastingly in health of mind and body, and in the glorious intercession of Blessed Mary, ever-Virgin, to be freed from our present sorrow, and to enjoy eternal happiness.

Grant us, we beseech you O Lord, the fulfilment of our earnest entreaty, and receiving our prayer turn away Plague and death, so that the hearts of mortals may know that it is by you in your wrath that they suffer such afflictions, and by your mercy that they are spared them. Through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. *℞. Amen.*

And let them be sprinkled with Holy Water