

Benedictine Abbey of Latrobe

1904 - 1955

PURGATORY

In 1859, at the Benedictine Abbey of Latrobe in the United States of America, various unexplainable things occurred, which caught the attention of the public opinion. To calm the controversy, Abbot Wimmer released the following signed declaration: "In our Abbey of St. Vincent near Latrobe, on September 18, 1859, a novice noticed the appearance of a religious who presented himself from that day until November 19, regularly from eleven in the morning until noon, or from midnight until two in the morning. On the 19th of that month, the ghost having been questioned by the novice in the presence of another religious of that community, answered that for seventy-seven years he was suffering for not having fulfilled the obligation of the celebration of seven Masses; he had already appeared in different periods to seven other Benedictines of that Monastery without them ever being able to understand him, and if the novice had not come now to assist him, he would not have had the possibility to appear anymore if not after eleven years. He requested, therefore,



that the seven Masses be celebrated, that the novice undertake spiritual exercises and maintain perfect silence for the span of seven days, and for thirty days he must recite three times a day the *Miserere* psalm with bare feet and open arms. The requests of the deceased were fulfilled from November 20 to December 25, and the ghost ceased to appear after the celebration of the last Mass. During all this time he presented himself with

greater frequency energizing the novice with very moving words to pray for the souls of Purgatory, saying that these miserable ones suffer horribly and that they are most grateful to those who contribute to hastening their salvation. He then added that of the five priests who died at the Abbey, until now, none of them had already risen to Heaven, and that all were suffering in Purgatory".

