

Brother John Rigaud

PURGATORY

The Franciscan Brother John Rigaud in his book entitled “Compendium Theologiae pauperis” (*Compendium of common Theology*), to the question: “Utrum indulgentiae defunctis valeant” (*If indulgences are valid for the deceased*), confirmed his thesis that the Pope could apply the indulgences even to the deceased, with this example: “I will then report here exactly what in regard to this was told to me inside the Porziuncola, near Assisi, in that spot where blessed Francis founded the Order of Friars Minor, and there piously passed from this life. Now we need to know that for this same place blessed Francis obtained from the Supreme Pontiff a plenary indulgence of all the sins for those who had gone there on the first day of August. I went there in the year of our Lord 1301. And it was there that a very intelligent and devout friar told me that in that same year two men from Milan had come to the Porziuncola, and that to one of them recently a son had died,

whom he loved ardently. While they were returning to their hometown, the one to whom a son had died, abruptly requested his companion to be so kind as to donate to him the reward of the Indulgence for the soul of his son, who, in his belief, must have been still suffering amid the flames of Purgatory. And that man with great generosity offered it to him, with the intention that it would be applied in supplication for the soul of the Deceased. And so during the same night, the dead son appeared clearly to his father, who was already awake; and then after giving him heartfelt thanks for the Indulgence obtained for his soul, he assured him that in virtue of it he was liberated immediately from the pains of Purgatory, and transported into the kingdom of the elect, up in Heaven. After one year, the above-mentioned men of Milan came again to the Indulgence of the Porziuncola, and with accuracy they explained to the above-mentioned Friar all that had occurred.”

