

“Interventions”



A Prayer From a Concentration Camp*

**“Let the good and not the evil
be taken into account!”**

Peace to all men of evil will!

Let there be an end to all vengeance, to all demands for punishment and retribution...

Crimes have surpassed all measure, they can no longer be grasped by human understanding. There are too many martyrs....



Weigh not their sufferings on the scales of your justice, Lord, and lay not these sufferings to the torturer’s charge to exact a terrible reckoning from them.

Pay them back in a different way! Put down in favor of the executioners, the informers, the traitors and all men of evil will, the courage, the spiritual strength of the others, their humility, their lofty dignity, their constant inner striving and invincible hope, the smile that stanchd the tears, their love, their ravaged, broken hearts that remained steadfast and confident in the face of death itself, yes, even at the moments of the utmost weakness...

Let all this, O Lord, be laid before You for the forgiveness of sins, as a ransom for the triumph of righteousness, let the good and not the evil be taken into account!

And may we remain in our enemies’ memory not as their victims, not as a nightmare, not as haunting specters, but as helpers in their striving to destroy the fury of their criminal passions. There is nothing more that we want of them. And when it is all over, grant us to live among men as men, and may peace come again to our poor earth – peace for men of goodwill and for all the others....



*Source: Metropolitan Anthony (Bloom), *Living Prayer* (Templegate Publishers: 1966), p. 18.

• From a note scrawled on a piece of worn paper and tucked between the cracks in two old boards, found in a shed in the concentration camp at Buchenwald. This prayer was later discovered in the camp’s archives and published in the *Sddeutsche Zeitung* after the war.

December 13, 2020 (Old Style)

† Holy Martyrs Eustratios, Auxentios, Eugene, Mardarios, and Orestes
and the Holy Martyr Lucy