



Act of Love

by St. John Vianney

St. John Mary Vianney (1786-1859) was a humble French priest best known for his long hours (up to 16 hours a day!) spent hearing confessions. A member of the Third Order of St. Francis, he lived a simple life of poverty, chastity, and obedience. People from near and far flocked to his parish in Ars to confess their sins and amend their lives. St. John Vianney is the patron of all priests.

I love You, O my God, and my only desire is to love You until my last breath. I love You, O infinitely loveable God, and I prefer to die loving You rather than to live for a single moment without loving You. I love You, O my God, and I long for heaven only to know the bliss of loving You perfectly. I love You, O my God, and I only fear going to hell because there I will never experience the sweet consolation of loving You. O my God, if my tongue is not able to say at every opportunity that I love You, at least I want my heart to repeat it to You as many times as I take a breath. My God, give me the grace of suffering out of love for You, of loving You while I suffer; give me the grace of one day breathing my last breath out of love for You and at the same time feeling how much I love You. The closer I come to my final end, the more I beseech You to intensify and perfect my love for You. Amen.

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BAPTISTE DE VIANNEY