It's a place where just souls leaving this world with the guilt of venial sin or still charged with a debt of temporal punishment due to forgiven mortal sin, pay their debt to the last farthing. It's a spiritual laundry where souls are cleansed and made perfectly ready for the Vision of their God.

Common sense tells us that many who die in the state of grace are not ready to enter at once into the Beatific Vision of God. There are traces of venial sins and the debt of temporal punishment due to forgiven mortal sins still spoiling the perfection of their souls.

God cannot send them to Heaven, for nothing defiled may enter there. He cannot, in His justice even, send them to Hell. Hence there must be a Middle State of cleansing which we call Purgatory.

Even back in Old Testament times, the Jews believed in this middle ground between Heaven and Hell. One day after battle Judas Maccabaeus "came with his company to take away the bodies of them that were slain...And they found under the coats of the slain some of the donations of the idols of Jannia, which the law forbiddeth to the Jews...And so betaking themselves to prayers, they besought the Lord that the sin which had been committed might be forgotten...And making a gathering, Judas sent twelve thousand drachmas of silver to Jerusalem for sacrifice to be offered for the sins of the dead, thinking well and religiously concerning the resurrection...and because he considered that they who had fallen asleep in godliness had great grace laid up for them. It is therefore a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead that they may be loosed from their sins."

The Jews believed that these friends who had died in godliness were not condemned, nor were they residing yet in the house of their Father Abraham, for almost at the moment of death they had broken a law. To relieve them sacrifice was offered to God.

PRAYERS: (deceased) aunt of Tom Maher (St. Eds.); Stanley Schurilla; Thos. Kenney, Ill, Jim McNulty (Crv.); mother of Joseph English ('33); friend of Gerald Hoag (Mor.) aunt of Bill Trinkor (Crv.); Dick Swisher; Geo. Stoofoll. 4 special intentions.