

O God, come to our aid. O Lord, make haste to help us. Glory be ...

God of all mercy your forgiveness and compassion call forth within us songs that fill our hearts with gladness.

The Imitation of Christ

Nature does all for her own lucre and interest; she can do nothing gratis, but hopes to gain something equal or better, or praise, or favour for her good deeds; and covets to have her actions and gifts much valued. But grace seeks nothing temporal, nor requires and other recompense but God alone for her reward, nor desires anything more of the necessities of this life than may be serviceable for the obtaining a happy eternity.

Story of a Soul

If a man take away your coat, let go your cloak also unto him (Mt 5:40). To let go one's cloak must surely mean to give up all rights, to consider oneself the servant and slave of others. It is easier to walk or run without a cloak, so Jesus adds: *Whoever will force you one mile, go with him other two (Mt 5:41).* It is not enough to give what is asked of me, I must foresee another's need, show that she does me an honour by asking a service of me, and if anything is taken from me, appear glad to be rid of it.

It is not always possible to obey this passage from the Gospel literally; sometimes I am obliged to refuse. But where charity has taken deep root in a soul, it shows outwardly: a refusal may be so gracious that it gives as much pleasure as a gift. An obliging person is, of course, being made use of continually, but that is no reason for avoiding those whom one might have to refuse, for Our Lord says: *From him that would borrow of you, turn not away (Mt 5:42).* Nor must I be obliging merely to appear so, or in the hope of getting some little service in return, for Our Lord has said: *If you lend to them of whom you hope to receive, what thanks are to you? For sinners also lend to sinners, for to receive as much. Do good, and lend, hoping for nothing thereby: and your reward shall be great (Lk 6:34,35).*

There can be no greater love than to lay down one's life for those one loves ... O ... Bless the Lord our God, whose goodness abounds! O...

(Silence)

Our Father

Intercessions

Response: Kyrie, Kyrie, Eleison. Kyrie, Kyrie, Eleison

(a time for brief spontaneous personal intercessions. Each intercession is followed by the Kyrie, sung by all.)

Concluding Prayer

As we pray before you, Lord, we ask you, in your mercy, for the grace always to ponder in our hearts what we proclaim with our lips.

Salve Regina

Salve, Regina, Mater misericordiae
vita, dulcedo, et spes nostra, salve
ad te clamamus, exsules filii Evae
ad te suspiramus, gementes et flentes
in hac lacrimarum valle

Eia, ergo, advocata nostra,
illos tuos misericordes oculos
ad nos converte;
et Iesum, benedictum fructum ventris tui,
nobis post hoc exsilium ostende.
O clemens, O pia, O dulcis Virgo Maria.

Hail, Queen, Mother merciful
life, sweetness and hope of ours, hail
to you we cry, exiles, children of Eve
to you we sigh, mourning and weeping
in this tearful valley

Quick, then, advocate of ours,
those your merciful eyes
to us turn
and Jesus, blessed fruit of your womb,
unto us, after this exile show.
O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.