

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

Sing to God with joyful hearts, praise the Lord forever more. Praise the Lord forever more. O...

The Imitation of Christ

Nature desires to be taken notice of, and to do such things as may procure praise and admiration. Grace teaches us to restrain the senses, to avoid vain complacency and ostentation, humbly to hide those things which are worthy of praise and admiration, and from everything, and in every knowledge, to seek the fruit of spiritual profit, and the praise and honour of God.

Story of a Soul

When my divine Master bade me to give to whoever asks of me, and not ask that what has been taken be restored to me, it seems to me that He was speaking of spiritual as well as earthly possessions. Neither are my own property: I have renounced the latter by my vow of poverty, and the former are only lent to me by God, who is at liberty to withdraw them without my having any right to complain. One's own deep and original reflections, living flames that spring from the mind and heart, are a personal treasure to be jealously guarded. For instance, if I share with some Sister a light I have received in prayer, and she passes this on as her own, I feel that she has robbed me. In the same way, if at recreation a witty remark is appropriated by another and repeated before the Community, the original owner of the saying feels that she has been defrauded of what is hers, and though she does not claim it at the time, yet she takes good care that the authorship becomes known.

But I have been given the grace to be as detached from the treasures of my mind and heart as I am from those of this world. If I happen to think or say anything that pleases my Sisters, I take it as a matter of course if the appropriate it: the thought came from the Holy Spirit, for St Paul assures us that without His inspiration we cannot even call God our Father (Rom 8:15). He is at liberty to communicate through me a good thought to another soul, and I cannot consider it as mine.

How blessed the poor in heart, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

(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

Christ of compassion, through your Gospel we discover that measuring what we are or what we are not leads nowhere. What matters is the humble trusting of faith. By it we are led to glimpse the innocence of God and to understand that "all God can do is give his love."

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 exilium 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.