

approach him, and conduct others to him.

14.

We cannot be guilty of an excess in true hope, which can never be too great, because it is founded on the goodness of God and the merits of Jesus Christ.

15.

We should not confine our attention to the consideration of the exterior, or the natural talents of a poor peasant, or a poor woman. They are so gross and earthly, that you will hardly find reason in them. But if you behold them by the light of faith, you will see in these poor people the true representatives of the Son of God.

16.

Those to whom God has confided the charge of assisting the poor, should experience as much pleasure in procuring them relief as a tender father does when he presents some consoling gift to his children.

17.

A superior should principally aim at a constant communication with Jesus Christ by means of prayer. In this book he will find all the instruction he requires.

18.

That which we have patiently in any good work we have undertaken, merits for us the necessary graces to ensure its success.

19.

Be as condescending as you please, provided God be not offended.

20.

When a superior, preacher, or professor, relies too much on his own prudence or knowledge, God withdraws from him and permits him to act alone. All his attempts in such a case will end in nothing. God acts in this manner to convince him of his insufficiency, and to teach him by his own experience, that all his talents are nothing, without the assistance of heaven.

21.

Prudence is a virtue most necessary for us, if we wish to accommodate ourselves to the situation and dispositions of those with whom we have to deal. It teaches us the greatest circumspection in our words and actions, and the avoidance of everything that may do the least injury to others, or wound charity or decency.

22.

Vain complacency is the poison of good works, if it enter into them. It is a plague, which infects the most holy actions, and makes us speedily forget God. It is a vice most fatal to all progress in a spiritual life and perfection.

23.

He that will have loved the poor during his life, will behold the moment of death approach without fear.