

is given without the intervention of prayer. Then, we heed that impulse or we do not. If we heed it, then prayer is the result; if we heed it not, then we either reject or neglect the grace of God.

Here, then, lies the way to sanctity. By means of prayer, we worthily receive the sacraments, and advance accordingly on the road leading to perfection. St. Francis is a model for us here. He had recourse to prayer and the sacraments with the proper spirit. As a result he responded well to the grace given him for a sublime mission, and became one of the grandest figures in the Church of God. Behold, on the one hand, the proud Parisian student, and, on the other, the ardent missionary, labouring first among the poor of Venice, and afterwards in Rome while waiting patiently for the opportunity to embark for the Holy Land, to labour for the conversion of the infidel; and when his hope was not realized, embracing with joy the offer to go to India, to labour for the conversion of the infidel there. Behold him in that far-away land, from Goa to Malabar, from Malabar to Malacca, from Malacca to Japan, from Japan to China, labouring for ten and a half years for the conversion of the heathen, even quelling the winds and calming the waves, converting thousands, nay, tens of thousands, at times with language given him direct by God—behold all this and marvel at the greatness of our Saint, who thus, near our own time, rivalled the missionary labours of the Apostles themselves.

Such, then, was St. Francis. His greatness dazzles us while he presents himself to our view as a great hero of the cross, far removed from anything we could attain. Such a view certainly contains much truth, for St. Francis made excellent use of grace which was proportionate to a sublime mission. Such a mission cannot be the common lot of mortals. Still, each of us has a mission, and our sanctity will depend upon the use we make of the grace given us to fulfil it. If we would make the very best use of that grace, then we would be saints. It ought, therefore, to be helpful to bear in mind the means used by St. Francis. Whatever may be our lot in life, we ought to strive, like him, to live with a