

and allow themselves to be drawn into evil. How often have I resisted Thy supreme appeal ! Yes, I confess, and ask pardon for it. If I have so often played the part of a prevaricator, it is for having neglected to harken to Thy lights and inspirations. Pardon for the pain given Thee by all who, at the moment of death, have obstinately rejected Thy merciful advances. Pardon for the souls now suffering in purgatory who had not the courage here on earth to defend Thy cause !

IV. — Prayer.

This woman was the model of every soul who sees Our Lord offended by one of the members of His family.

Pilate's wife passed the whole night of Jesus' arrest in extreme agitation. A thousand painful fancies besieged her sleep. She trembled at the idea of seeing her husband steep his hands in the Blood of the Just One. Who will depict her indignation, her secret sorrow at seeing her efforts rendered useless by Pilate's base cowardice ? How she wept and sighed hidden in the solitude of his palace !

Is not this wife of the Roman Procurator a perfect model of every one having charge of souls, especially of the *Christian spouse* ? In all Jerusalem, she was the only one of her sex in a situation to take up the defence of Jesus and, in spite of all kinds of difficulties, she courageously accomplished the duty marked out by her tortured conscience.

Are there, perhaps, among your neighbors some souls who are about to commit sin ? Your duty, though so difficult, so painful, is to warn them. Angel-guardian of the family, you should try to draw them from dishonor and the abyss. But for this, great courage is often necessary, and such courage Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament alone can give. Ask it of Him at once. Assist at the Divine Sacrifice of the altar more frequently, for the Holy Mass is the source of all grace. Multiply your Communions. In them, heart to heart with the Saviour of souls, you will find strength and support. Multiply your hours of adoration and your visits to the Divine Prisoner of our tabernacles. He Himself will inspire you what counsel to give under such circumstances.

Yes, place all your confidence in Jesus. It is for Him that you are working. With Him, you will never be discouraged. He will certainly afford you the light to illumine your friends, the courage to incite them to do their duty in spite of human respect, prevailing prejudices, and disgrace with those in power. And if, like the energetic Claudia Procla, you do not perfectly succeed in preserving your loved ones from evil, you will have the sweet consolation of having done your duty.

