

A Christian Rule of life under THE GUIDANCE OF GOOD ST ANNE



THE commandment of charity towards our neighbor. —

The love of our neighbor is implanted within us at the same time as the love of God ; they are but one, the only difference is in the object towards which they are directed. This is why Holy Scripture speaks of one commandment of charity. « If any man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar. » (1 Jo. 4-20.) Our love of our neighbor is therefore the best test of our love of God. He who cherishes ill-will towards his fellow-man, who hates him, envies him, injures him in any way, or who grudges alms to the needy, is destitute of the love of God. The greater our love of God, the greater will be our love of our neighbor.

Every human being is our neighbor, without distinction of religion, of race, of age, of sex, or of occupation. In the parable of the good Samaritan, Our Lord teaches us that those who are strangers to us and even our enemies, are to be regarded as our neighbor. In the present day some people are so foolish as to consider none but their countrymen as their neighbors. In Christ there is neither Jew nor Greek, but all are one. (Gal. 3-28.)

He who loves the father will assuredly love his children. (1 Jo. 5-1.) Now God is our common Father, for He created us. (Matt. 2-10.) We are all His children, and for that reason we ought to love one another. Those who are offspring of one and the same parent are blood relations ; consequently since we all received our being from the same God, we stand in the relation of brethren one to another, and on this account ought to love one another. — A man who loves his father shows respect for his portrait. Now, our fellow-man is an image of God ; he was made to His likeness ; (Gen. 1-27.) consequently we ought to love him. — We are, moreover, called to the attainment of everlasting happiness ; we shall all live together, we shall behold the face of God and sing His praises together. St John