

20.

We cannot make a better use of earthly goods, than to employ them in works of charity; by this means we make them return to God, who is their source, and who is also the last end to which everything should be referred.

21.

Although we should speak to every one in terms of politeness, we should not praise those who are present, unless when we consider it proper to encourage timid souls, or engage them to persevere in good works.

22.

Simplicity makes us go straight to God without consulting our own interest, or human respect; it makes us speak and act simply without disguise or artifice, it not only prescribes truth and purity of intention as a duty, it inspires us with the greatest hatred for every kind of duplicity.

23.

A soul always in repose, may be compared to marshy water without motion, which corrupts and exhales a fetid odour; on the contrary, a soul that is exercised by temptation, is like a running stream, always clear, and always agreeable.

24.

When God deprives any one of his bodily strength, he gives him to understand that he has chosen other instruments for the execution of his designs.

25.

When we are vigilant over ourselves, attention to the presence of God soon becomes a habit: I have known a person who reproached himself for having been withdrawn from God's presence three times in a day. Persons of this description will be our judges, and will condemn us before the Divine Majesty, for our frequent forgetfulness of him.

26.

Those who are not changed by the spiritual exercises of a retreat, cannot be converted unless by a miracle.

27.

We should love God at the expense of our arms, and with the sweat of our brow. All the acts of love and complacency, and all the other sentiments which a tender heart can feel, although good and desirable, are, however, open to suspicion, when they do not lead to works of active charity.

28.

To be satisfied with every state in which God places us, and never to abandon them unless we know that it is God's will, is the most excellent and useful virtue that we can practice in this world.

29.

It is of great importance to go on gently in prayer, that we may not overpower the mind, by too violent application, or too much nicety.

30.

Humility is the virtue of our Lord Jesus Christ, of his holy mother, and of the greatest saints. It includes all virtues, and when sincere, introduces all to the heart.

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