

IV. — Prayer.

The road to heaven is a difficult one, not very attractive, sown with thorns, and full of perils. At every instant are encountered enemies who aim at injuring and even at utterly destroying them that are pursuing it.

This dangerous road is skirted by another, planted with flowers and on it are met festivals and distractions of all kinds. It leads to the abyss, to hell.

Nature abandoned to its natural instincts urges us almost of necessity toward the latter. Man is naturally attracted by pleasure and diversion. Without superior strength to draw him, to lead him on the road to heaven, he would fall in with the multitude and necessarily be seduced by false friendships soliciting his heart the whole length of the way.

To obviate that, Jesus must come to our aid. He alone, in fact can be our guide, protector. The whole charm of His presence is needed to keep us on the thorny path leading to Paradise, and to prevent us from running to gather the flowers that spring up on the road that conducts to hell.

O Jesus, who, by allowing Thyself to be led, hast merited for me the grace of walking with Thee toward heaven, be my Guide during the whole course of my life! With Thee the journey is short and pleasant. Thy grace, says the *Imitation*, is a gentle steed: "He rides at ease who is carried by the grace of God."

I wish to walk by Thy side, to remain everywhere and always under Thy eye, under the influence of Thy presence. I will frequently receive Thee in the Divine Sacrament. It is, above all, in my inmost being that Thou wilt enlighten me, strengthen me, direct my steps, lead me Thyself to the Holy City.

I desire to form the habit of consulting Thee often, at least every morning before beginning my day, I wish to submit to Thee my thoughts, desires, and projects. I want to recur to Thee in all the difficult moments of my life, above all when Satan and the world are endeavoring to turn me away from the road to the true country.

And, then, with Thee what shall I have to fear? "For though I should walk in the midst of the shadow of death, I will fear no evils, for Thou art with me."

RESOLUTION.— Unite hourly with Mary, and with Jesus actually renewing in a mystical manner His immolation on the Cross upon some altar on earth. Communicate spiritually in the Divine Victim, Promise Our Saviour that, for love of Him, you will allow yourself to be conducted blindly by your Superiors in all the ways toward heaven that they point out to you.

