

dy how plentiful would be the fruits of salvation obtained from the spiritual exercises performed during that time !

Lend your ears. The Church begins with this beautiful chant ; it is a cry of confidence : « To thee, O God, I have lifted up my soul. In thee I have placed my confidence and I know that I shall not have to blush for it, for thou wilt come at the time appointed. In vain will the enemies of my salvation laugh at my patience ; whoso'er waits on thee shall not be confounded. » But why do you find prayer tedious ? It is because you know not how to pray with those impulses of humble confidence so recommended by Our Lord. This confidence goes on increasing in the heart of the Spouse of Christ as the great day approaches whereon the divine promises will be fulfilled. And if heaven seems to remain deaf to her prayers, she redoubles her efforts, she rebukes the Almighty as if to compel Him to give us Him who was promised to us. « Stir up thy strength, O Lord, save us from the imminent perils to which our sins are dragging us. » « Stir up our hearts, O Lord, that they may prepare the way of Thine only Son and that we may be worthy to serve thee with souls that have been cleansed. »

« Lend Thine ear unto our prayers, O Lord, and by thy visit enlighten the darkness of our souls. » « Manifest Thy power, O Lord, and come ; may thy merciful kindness deign to hasten the remedy whereof our sins make us unworthy ! »

Why have your prayers so little effect ? Because they lack fervency of desire. You do not appreciate the grace of God, wherefore your desires drag instead of bounding towards the throne of the Eternal. Is this how your mother, Holy Church, taught you to pray ? Read once more, I beg of you, those admirable strophes of the prophet Isaias. During the holy time of Lent they will re-echo under the vaults of our temples at night-fall, at the moment when, before you return to your homes, we shall implore the blessing of the God of the Eucharist. They express at once both the bitterness of repentance, profound humility and ardent desire.

« *Rorate celi desuper ; et nubes pluuant justum.* Drop down dew, ye heavens, from above and let the clouds rain the just.

« Be not very angry, O Lord, and remember no longer our iniquities. The city of thy sanctuary is become a desert, Sion is made a desert and Jerusalem is desolate, the house of our holiness and of our glory where our fathers praised thee.

« Drop down dew, ye heavens, from above and let the clouds rain the just