

my vows. You reign in glory, after having combated on earth. I am still fighting, but with much less courage than you. It is this courage, this zeal for my salvation which I desire, and which I ask of Jesus Christ our Lord, through your powerful intercession. Those amongst you whose history I have read, have inspired me with a holy emulation, because I have there seen that in frail bodies, and in the midst of the dangers of the world, they have made an excellent use of grace and of time. Those of whose particular actions I am ignorant, did not appear to me less worthy of admiration. They have sanctified themselves in silence; they have concealed from the eyes of men the treasures of grace which they possessed. Everything in you is an instruction and example to me, O holy inhabitants of the heavenly Jerusalem! Look upon me with a propitious eye; offer in my behalf, your merits, which are the gifts of Jesus Christ; this divine Saviour cannot but acknowledge them. Protect me by your prayers against the enemies of my salvation. Those who enjoyed eternal bliss before you, did not abandon you; they were your friends and your intercessors. Perform the same function in my regard, O holy patriarchs, O holy Prophets, O holy Apostles, O holy Martyrs, O holy Confessors, O holy Virgins, in order that I may one day share in your happiness. Amen.

From St. Vincent of Paul.

Spiritual Maxims.

APRIL.

1.

When there is question of accomplishing the will of God, we should spare no expense nor fatigue, nor our life itself.

2.

Generally speaking the works of God are accomplished by degrees. They have their beginning and progress. We should not therefore attempt to do every thing at once, nor give up any thing as lost, because it requires some pains to succeed in it. We should proceed step by step, and address frequent prayers to God.

3.

God has no need of learned men for the success of his works. On the contrary he more frequently chooses simple men, like the Apostles, for the conversion of the world.

4.

He that receives with impatience correction and reproof is in a deplorable state, and far removed from that of the Saints, who humbled themselves in the eyes of men, and who were delighted when they were told of any little defects that still remained in them.

5.

A superior should be very careful to assist and deliver those who are afflicted with interior sufferings or temptations, and if he finds any opportunity, and in them he should endeavour to help them by meek and humble means.

6.

It often happens that the love any one has for his friends and himself, when engaged only for the salvation of his friends and himself, is a sin directly opposed to genuine zeal.