

Maxims of the Saints.

CONTAINING EDIFYING REFLECTIONS,
Extracted from the Lives and Writings of emi-
nent Servants of God.

Let your heart be in the heart of God, and
you will every where find heaven.

—ST. ANTHONY.

Believe that you have as yet done
nothing, and say—Now I begin; it is
time; perhaps this will be the last day
of my life.

In order to overcome the devil have
recourse to God; keep yourself in his
presence, and let your heart be grateful.
Discretion is the mistress of virtues;
be discreet in every thing for the love
of God.

Study that science which alone is
worthy of man, the science of the love
of God. Let your love for him be such
that you may place no value upon any
thing in the universe but him.

Despise the world and all its vanities.
If you know how to despise it, you
know every thing; if you do not, you
know nothing.

Have recourse to God frequently;
when God will be with you, what can
all the devils in hell do to injure you?

Look upon yourself as a perjurer,
when you reflect, that after having so
often promised to serve God faithfully,
you serve him so badly.

ST. BASIL.

In order to perform all your actions
well, remember that God and your good
angel are looking at you, and that they
are witnesses of all your actions. Per-
form all your actions as well as you can
and believe that you have performed
them very badly. Be afflicted at no-
thing but sin: fear nothing but sin.

Do nothing without advice, nothing
but through obedience, unless you wish
to do your own will, and thereby ex-
pose yourself to destruction.

ST. PACOMIUS.

Mortify yourself in such a manner,
that for the love of Jesus Christ, your
life may be, like his, a severe martyr-
dom.

If you have placed your heart in the
heart of God, you should no longer have
any affection for the things of earth—
for the vanities of the world.

Imagine that you hear every moment
the trumpet that is to summon you to
judgment before the tribunal of God.

ST. JEROME.

Accept whatever cross God will send
you, and practise mortifications: to be
happy in heaven you must suffer on
earth.

Let heaven be in your mind and in
your heart. An excellent method of
laboring for heaven and deserving it, is
to think of it and to desire it.

Say frequently to yourself: of what
use will it be to me to have been ho-
nored, if the Lord shall humble me; to
have lived in abundance, if I shall be
deprived of every thing; to have suf-
fered nothing, if I shall be dreadfully
tormented; to have been happy, if I
shall be eternally miserable?

The four degrees by which we arrive
at sanctity are, silence, retirement,
prayer, and austerities. Do not speak
without some necessity. Love retire-
ment. Pray without ceasing. Mortify
yourself in every thing.

Do not use your tongue but to bless
God, and to cause him to be blessed.
Cultivate solitude as much as you can,