

Charity I Prayers

O Lord, Teach me to Love my Neighbor with all my Heart, not merely as myself, but more than myself, thus Obeying Your Commandment: **"Love One Another as I have Loved You."**

O God, Eternal Trinity, You ask us to Love You with the same Love with which You Love us. This we cannot do, for You Loved us when we were still Your enemies; and however Great our Love is for You, we would always owe You this Love, as due to You; it is therefore, not Gratuitous, because You Loved us First. As it is Impossible for us to give You the Love You Desire, You have Given us our Neighbor, so we may do for them what we cannot do for You, that is, Love them without having been Loved by them—Gratuitously—without expecting any Benefit from it.

Teach me, **O Lord**, to Love my Neighbor even when not Loved by them, to Love them with no Concern for my own Benefit, but Solely because You Love me, Solely to Repay Your Gratuitous Love. Then I shall fulfill the Commandment of the Law: **to Love You above all Things, and my Neighbor as myself.**

O Charity! How Beautiful and Pleasing to God You are! Like the pelican, You give Your Own **Blood**, not only for Your Children, but even for Your Enemies. Yet, in truth, he who Possesses You Considers no one his Enemy but Esteems them all as his Dearest Friends and would Give his very Life for the Soul of his Neighbor if he sees it Necessary. Thus, I also, like Christ, for my Neighbor's sake, must Leave myself and my Love for Creatures, and be ready to Shed my Blood for their Salvation if Necessary.

O Lord Jesus, when You died on the Cross Your Heart was so filled with Kindness toward us and You Loved us so Tenderly, even though we ourselves were the cause of Your Death, that You had but one thought: to Obtain Pardon for Your Executioners, even while they Tortured You and Cruelly Insulted You. Help me, I beg You, to endure my Neighbor's Faults and Imperfections with Kindness.

To those who Despise me or Complain about me, Teach me to reply with Humility, Mildness, and a Steadfast Kindness of Heart, never Defending myself in any way. For Love of You, I Desire to let everyone Say what he Wishes, because Words are not of Value but Love is, and he who Loves More will be More Loved and Glorified. Help me then, **My Jesus**, to Love You; help me to Love Others for Love of You, especially those who Despise me, without letting myself be Disturbed by their Contempt, but Applying myself to the Practice of Humility and Mildness; then You will be my Reward.

Teach me to Behave myself always with Mildness and Sweetness, and never to disrupt Peace with anyone. All that I can do and obtain with Love I will do, but what I cannot do or Procure without a Dispute, I will let it be. Help me to make use of the Repugnances and Aversions I encounter in my contacts with others to Practice the Virtue of Mildness, and to Show myself Loving with All, even with Those who are Opposed to me, or who are a Cause of Aversion.

Finally, I Desire with Your Help, **O Most Lovable God**, to apply myself to Acquire **"Kindness of Heart"** toward my Neighbor by thinking of them as Your Creature, Destined to Enjoy You some day in Paradise. Those whom You Tolerate, **O Lord God**, it would only be just that I too, Tolerate them Tenderly and with Great Compassion for their Spiritual Infirmities. Amen.

Prudence Prayers

O My God, a Soul who Loves You Listens no more to the Suggestions of Human Prudence.

Faith and Love Alone Influence Her, making her Despise all Earthly Things, Holding them to be Worthless, as Indeed they are. She Cares Not for any Earthly Good, being Convinced that All is Vanity. When she Finds that by Doing Something she can Serve You Better, she Listens to No Objections but Acts at Once, for she Understands that her Profit Consists Entirely in This.

O God, One Work Performed with Prudence is more Pleasing to You than Many done Carelessly and Imprudently, for this Virtue thoroughly Examines and Weighs every Action so that it may be Turned to Your Honor and Glory.

True and Supernatural Prudence belongs to You and is in You **O Lord**. Few there are in whom we find it, because many seek it through Cunning, using their own Wisdom to Scrutinize Your Designs; thus they Lose their Time and find Nothing. Anyone who really desires to Possess Prudence must come to You, the **Incarnate Word**; he will Find it in You, Together with all the Other Virtues, but vastly Different from Human Prudence, which tends to what Exalts and not to what Abases. In You, he will find the Prudence which Teaches us to Humble and Abase Ourselves, as You Willed to Humble and Abase Yourself, in order to show us the Way which Leads to Salvation.

You, **O Lord**, have said: 'If you Wish to be My Disciple, Renounce Yourself, Take up your Cross and Follow Me.' Oh! this is Prudence in the Highest Degree! Yet to Human Prudence it seems like Complete Crazyiness. For, **O crucified Christ**, to the Wise ones in this World it is the Height of Foolishness to take up One's Cross and Follow You! But You Teach me that the Foolishness of the Cross is Supreme Wisdom, and to Deny Oneself is Supreme Prudence. What Wiser Foolishness can there be than to take up the Cross with You and follow in Your Footsteps? And what Greater Prudence can there be than to 'Die to Self' in order to Find Life in You, from whom Everything Receives Life?

O Prudence, You are like a High Mountain. Those whom the Mountain Shelters, live a Healthy Life and Enjoy its Pure Air. From its Height, they See and Foresee Everything they should Do. So also, **My God**, the Prudence which Proceeds from You keeps the Soul High above the Clouds of Passion and Human Considerations; it Invigorates her Virtue, and Causes her to Honor You in all her Works, making her Foresee Everything, so that she can Arm herself against Temptation.

O my God, give me this **True Upright Prudence**, which will Lead me to Union with You. Let it Guide me in such a Way that I shall never Fail to Perform Your Works out of any Motive of Human Respect or Regard for any Creature.

Create a Clean Heart in me, **O God**, and Renew a Right Spirit within me. Teach me Your Ways, so that I may Follow Your Truth. Give me Temperance and Prudence, Justice and Fortitude, for Nothing is more Profitable to Men.

O Jesus, Supreme Goodness, I ask You to Give me a Heart so Enamored of You that Nothing on Earth can Distract It . . . a Free Heart, never Seduced or Enslaved, an Upright Heart which Never Goes Astray! Amen.