

at the first attempt, try again and again. It happens that men—listening secretly to the evil spirit, or lulled to sleep by lukewarmness—at first scarcely hearken to what is better; but that afterward—when the good Spirit, by means of interior remorse, repeats what they have heard, and exhorts them from within—the zeal of the zealous laborer urging them on, and grace moving them, they turn and surrender.

So long as I wait, so long as I endure a mortal, thou shouldst by no means despair of him. If he is an unbeliever now, how knowest thou whether he will not soon be a believer? If he is a heretic at present, whence knowest thou that he will not soon follow Catholic truth? If a schismatic to-day, he may be united to the Church to-morrow.

Paul was in the morning a persecutor of the Church; in the evening he was a Vessel of election. Magdalen was a sinner in the city on one day; on the following she was a model of every virtue,—a Seraph-like lover of My Heart.

How many there are, who, seemingly lost beyond all hope, in their errors or sins, were yet converted, and found the happy life of grace in this world and the blissful life of glory in the next? Has, then, the power of grace grown less? has man's free-will become extinct?

5. If, in spite of thy endeavors, men be unwilling to be converted, do not lose thy peace of heart.

Imitate the holy Guardian Angels, who, after having done whatever they should and could have done—if the men committed to their charge do not repent nor improve—remain equally peaceful, equally blissful.

If there be any who do not avail themselves of the efforts of thy zeal for the good of their souls, these endeavors shall not be less rewarded; since, with Me, an efficacious will is reputed equal to success.

It is thy duty to water the plants of grace—not to give them increase. Water them, therefore, and labor cheerfully, and, whether or not thou seest an increase, thou shalt never toil without profit to thyself, and honor to Me.

6. Meanwhile, My Child, thou must take heed, lest, whilst thou art laboring to save others, or to make them perfect, thou suffer thyself to become a castaway or a disregarder of thy own perfection.

In thy heart believe that they, to whose spiritual good thou appliest thyself, are already better than thyself, or that they shall be so some day: and how much good soever thou effectest in souls, deem thyself no more than a cymbal, which, without another's aid, cannot give forth a sound.

The more disinterestedly thou shalt have Me for thy aim, and the more humbly thou shalt think concerning thyself, the more fit shalt thou be to promote the salvation and perfection of souls.

For I select weak instruments of this kind—weak in their own eyes—to perform My own great works; that no one may glory in his strength, but that to Me may be given all the honor and glory.

7. *The voice of the Disciple.*—It is not, then, enough, Lord Jesus, that I alone love Thee: it is necessary that others also love Thee; that all serve Thee. For Thou art supremely, Thou art for every reason, worthy of the love of all hearts.

O Jesus! if men knew Thee, would they ever