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J.M.J.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING

— Saint Gertrude



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SUBLIME ACT OF THANKSGIVING.

From the devotions of St. Gertrude.
BLESSED be Thy goodness, O my God, and blessed be Thy compassion, O Thou one and true Godhead, Thou one and holy Trinity, Thou one and supreme God, for all the benefits and loving-kindnesses with which Thy profuse and loving compassion has surrounded me, undeserving as I am. For all these I adore Thee, I praise and bless Thee, O my most tender Lord and God, in union with that supernal praise with which Thou, O glorious Trinity, art Thine own sufficient praise, which pours down from Thee upon the blessed Humanity of our Lord Jesus Christ, upon His glorious Mother, and upon all holy angels and saints; and from them flows back again into its source in the abysses of Thy Divinity. I give Thee thanks for the love with which Thou hast created and redeemed me,

sanctified me, called me, preserved me, and endowed me with all manner of good things. And since praise is not seemly in the mouth of a sinner, I beseech Thee, O sweetest Jesus, by that prevailing love wherewith Thou sittest at the right hand of the Father, to pay for me to my God eternal, infinite, unfaltering, unceasing praises, such as Thou alone canst pay, and as Thou knowest to be befitting His most dread glory and the honour of His Majesty, for all the good which has ever flowed forth upon me from the inexhaustible abyss of His Godhead. Break forth, therefore, O beloved Jesus, into such thanksgivings as Thou alone canst utter; O my Lord, great and wonderful exceedingly, praise the Godhead in Thyself, in me and for me, with all the might of Thy Divinity, and with all the love of Thy Humanity, in the name and on behalf of all the universe Thy hands have made. Amen.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE BENEFITS OF GOD.

While saying this prayer, St Gertrude received from the Son of God most gracious tokens of His love, and His promise that He would take her into His most intimate and special protection. Hence she learned that the Lord takes in a special manner under His protection all who gratefully recite this acknowledgment, and commit themselves to His divine Providence.

I give Thee thanks, O holy Father, with all my strength; through Him who sitteth at Thy right hand, for all the gifts I have ever received from Thy munificent bounty; and I acknowledge that no power could have

bestowed them on me but Thine, Who are all-powerful and upholdest all creation.

I give Thee thanks, most kind and gentle Jesus, and I confess, and will confess to my latest breath, that Thou hast most wisely and well provided for me in body and in soul, in all things prosperous or adverse; and I acknowledge that no wisdom could thus embrace all my whole life but Thy increated wisdom alone, O my most tender God, which reacheth from end to end mightily, and ordereth all things sweetly.

I give Thee thanks, O good and quickening Spirit, the Comforter,

through Him who was by Thy cooperation made flesh in the Virgin's womb, that Thou dost in all things so sweetly anticipate me, unworthy as I am, with the blessings of Thy gracious bounty; and I acknowledge that no goodness could thus diffuse itself but Thy ineffable goodness, in which all good things are contained, from which they proceed, and together with which they are received. And as Thou hast hitherto and always provided for me, so I confidently hope and rely that Thou wilt provide for me to the end through Thy divine goodness, to which I most devoutly commend myself. Amen.