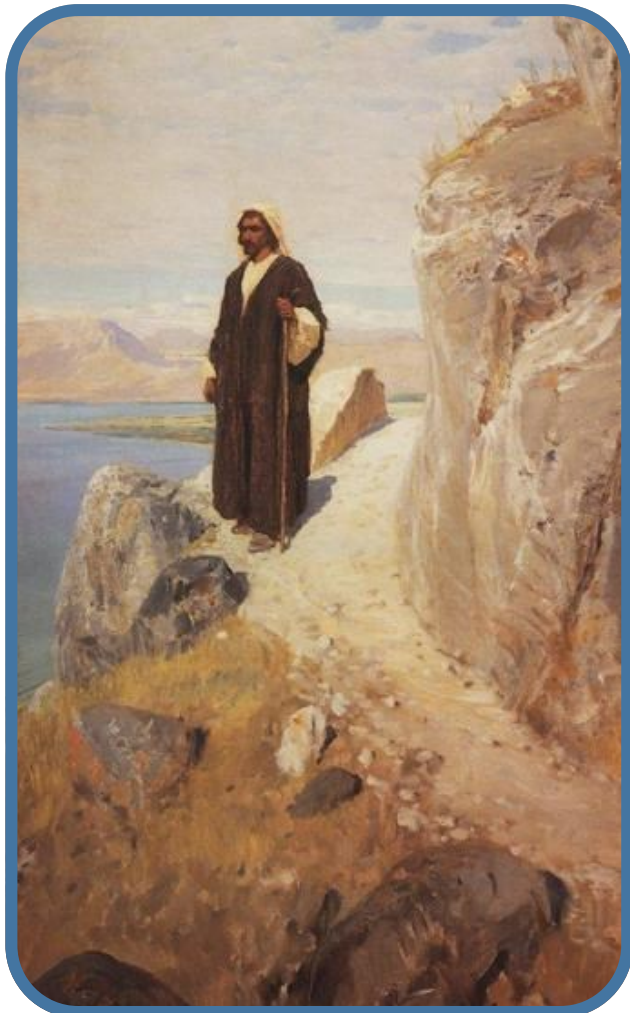


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J.M.J.

THE PRAYER TO JESUS, OUR FRIEND

—*St. Claude de la Colombière*



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O Jesus, You are
my true friend,
my only friend.

You take a part in all
my misfortunes;
You take them
upon Yourself;
You know how
to change them
into blessings.

You listen to me with
the greatest kindness
when I relate my
troubles to You,
and You always have
balm to pour on my
wounds.

I find You
at all times;
I find You
everywhere;
You never go away;
if I have to change
my dwelling,
I find You
wherever I go.

You never weary
of listening to me;
You are never tired
of doing me good.
I am certain of being
loved by You
if I love You;
my goods are nothing
to You,

and by bestowing
Yours on me,
You never grow poor.

However miserable

I may be,
no one more noble
or learned
or even holier
can come between
You and me
and deprive me of
Your friendship;
and death,
which tears us away
from all other friends,
will unite me to You
forever.

All the humiliations
attached to old age,
or to loss of honor,
will never detach me
from You.

On the contrary,
I shall never enjoy
You more fully,
and You will never be
closer to me
than when everything
seems to conspire
against me,
to overwhelm me
and to cast me down.
You bear with
all my faults with
extreme patience.

Even my want
of fidelity
and my ingratitude
do not wound You
to such a degree
as to make You
unwilling to receive
me back
when I return
to You.

O Jesus! Grant
that I may die
praising You;
that I may die
loving You;
that I may die
for love of You.
Amen.