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ACTS OF THE MOST NECESSARY VIRTUES TO BE MADE IN TIME OF SICKNESS.

— *Key of Heaven*



LORD; I accept this sickness from thy hands, and resign myself entirely to thy blessed will, whether it be for life or death. Not my will, but Thine be done: Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

I offer up to thee, O Lord, all that I now suffer, or may hereafter suffer, to be united to the sufferings of my Redeemer, and sanctified by His Passion.

I adore thee, O my God and my All, as my first beginning and last end; and bowing down all the powers of my soul in Thy presence, desire to pay Thee the best homage I am able.

I desire to praise Thee, O Lord, without ceasing, in sickness as well as in health: and to join my heart and voice with the whole Church in heaven and on earth, in blessing Thee forever.

I give Thee thanks from the bottom of my heart for all the mercies and blessings bestowed

upon me and Thy whole Church, through Jesus Christ Thy Son; and, above all, for His having loved me from all eternity, and redeemed me with His Precious Blood. O let not that Blood be shed for me in vain.

Lord, I believe all those heavenly truths which thou hast revealed, and which thy holy Catholic Church believes and teaches: Thou art the sovereign Truth, who neither canst deceive nor be deceived: and thou hast promised the Spirit of Truth to guide thy Church into all truth. *I believe in God the Father Almighty, &c.* In this faith I resolve, through thy grace, both to live and die: O Lord, strengthen and increase my faith.

O my God, all my hopes are centred in thee, from whom I hope for mercy, grace, and salvation, through the passion and death of my blessed Redeemer. In Thee, O Lord, have

I put my trust: O let me never be confounded.

O sweet Jesus, receive me into Thy arms in this day of my distress: hide me within Thy Wounds, bathe my soul in Thy Precious Blood.

I love Thee, O my God, with my whole heart and soul, above all things: at least, I desire so to love Thee! O! come now, and take full possession of my soul, and teach me to love Thee forever.

I desire to be dissolved, and to be with Christ.

When, O Lord, will thy kingdom come? When wilt thou perfectly reign in all hearts? When shall sin be no more?

I desire to embrace every neighbor in the arms of perfect charity, for the love of Thee. I forgive, from my heart, all that have any ways offended or injured me, and ask pardon of all whom I have any ways offended.

Have mercy on me, O God,

according to Thy great mercy; and according to the multitude of Thy tender mercies blot out my iniquities.

O! who will give water to my head, and fountains of tears to my eyes, that night and day I may bewail my sins!

O! that I had never offended so good a God! O that I had never sinned. Happy those souls that have preserved their baptismal innocence.

Lord, be merciful to me a sinner; sweet Jesus, Son of the living God, have mercy on me.

I recommend my soul to God my Creator, who made me out of nothing; to Jesus Christ my Saviour, who redeemed me with His Precious Blood; to the Holy Ghost, who sanctified me in baptism. Into Thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

I renounce from this moment, and for all eternity, the devil and all his works; and

abhor all his suggestions and temptations. Suffer not this mortal enemy of my soul, O Lord, to have any dominion over me, either now, or at my last hour. O let thy holy angels defend me from all the powers of darkness.

O holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for me a poor sinner, now, and at the hour of my death. O all ye blessed angels and saints of God, pray for me a poor sinner.

—*Key of Heaven, Devotions for the Sick*, 1870, pp. 343-346.

