

NOVEMBER 2020

*Act of Presence of God*

1. *I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die* (John 11:25-26). As we return to lockdown, do I make the most of this situation, in the month to November, to meditate frequently on eternal life, death, the judgment of God, purgatory, heaven, and hell? Do I do so amid the hope that Christ gives us salvation? Do I speak of eternal life to others, right now when so many people are feeling more vulnerable than ever?

2. Does the certain fact of my death help me to use as well as I can the time given to me here on earth? Do I realise that He has given me this time on earth to make use of the talents He has given me? Is what truly matters to me God's judgment or merely human considerations?

3. In heaven – with our Lady, St Joseph, the angels, and all the saints – we shall see God *face to face* (1 Cor 13:12). Do I have a keen hope of heaven?

4. *“God, while desiring that all should reach repentance (2 Pet 3:9), nevertheless has created the human person to be free and responsible; and he respects our decisions”* (Compendium, 213). Am I aware that to persist in mortal sin is to reject the merciful love of God?

5. As long as we are on earth, conversion is always possible. Do I give my friends some idea of the happiness that comes with friendship with Christ? Do I pray and offer up some sacrifice for the conversion of those who don't live with their sights on God?

6. Do I speak about Confession to my friends and relatives? Do I make it easy for my children get to this sacrament, and do I help them to desire it, while always respecting their freedom? Do I remind them that even in this lockdown, confession is available?

7. Do I have faith in the resurrection of the dead? Do I offer up suffrages for those who have died? Do I pray for the holy souls in purgatory, especially at Mass? Do I rely on their intercession?

8. Our Lord says: *Be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect* (Matt 5:48). Do I want to answer the call to holiness? Do I begin each day by offering it to God with a prayer? Do I renew this offering throughout the day?

9. Do I strive to do my work well and to offer it to God? Do I take the necessary steps to improve my formation? Do I avoid shoddy work?

10. What intentions do I attach to my work? Do I try to work for love of God and of others? Am I eager to serve, to be useful?

11. Do I suffer the difficulties of work with a certain grace, offering them to God? When faced with unemployment, do I know how to derive spiritual profit from this difficult experience, while, at the same time, using all the available means to find work?

12. Do I get advice from people with sound and expert criteria when I am faced with ethical issues related to my profession? Do I pray to God not to give in to injustice, or to deceitful and fraudulent activity?

13. Do my children and the children of my friends see that I live my faith naturally, that God is on my lips and in my deeds? Do I try to teach them to offer God their everyday activities, especially their study?

14. Do I teach my children, my grandchildren, and the children of my friends to pray? Do I do so in a timely way, without ever imposing on them, so that they discover what a wonderful thing it is to have a conversation with God?

15. Do I go to our Lady to prepare for Advent, and do I ask her for a new conversion?

*Act of Contrition*