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Youth and Chastity--IV.

When St. Teresa first thought of building a convent, she had only three pennies. She said: "Three pennies and Teresa--that is very little; but three pennies, Teresa and the Good Lord--that is very much." And the convent was erected.

The Lord With You.

You also want to build up in your soul a beautiful temple of God. Many times, perhaps, you have tried it, but with little success--perhaps you had not fully availed yourself of God's help. Your own strength is indeed insufficient, but if your earnest good will combines with God's fortifying grace, you will go forward.

This old saying is not without reason: When God sends favoring winds, you can sail in a wicker-basket.

Without the aid of religion it is next to impossible to observe purity in youth. St. Augustine expresses the truth thus: Immorality reigns where love for God is absent.

As ways lead from the centre of a circle, in every imaginable direction, towards the periphery, so must you direct all the events of your life that they may point towards God, the great center of the world.

Endeavor to form the closest and most intimate friendship with Our Lord Jesus. Turn to Him in all matters with a singleness of heart, with pulsating love. The Person of Jesus is by no means a dimmed historical figure, but is today and forever the Savior who radiates enlivening energy, who loves and fortifies your soul.

He must be the great vitalizing Reality, whom you consult about all your plans, in whom you place all your trust, who, you know, is rejoicing with you in all successes and grieving with you in adversity.

Accustom yourself to the thought that Our Lord is with you always and everywhere when you are in the state of grace. From early morning till late at night He is your companion: in the street, on the campus, at recreation. He is there when you study, when you are alone.

Say your prayers well and regularly--with attentiveness, with fiery love, with fresh soul, willingly, devotedly. In such prayer you are close to eternity, kneeling before the throne of the Almighty, where all storms die down, where the waves of the agitated soul are calmed and the struggle becomes easier and more hopeful.

Receive, above all, frequently the bread of Angels, the Lord Jesus, in Holy Communion. And then, as the fire of Christ's holy Blood flames up within you, bend your fighting brow unto His hand and whisper this beautiful Communion prayer to Christ now dwelling within you:

"Soul of Christ, sanctify me. Body of Christ, save me. Blood of Christ inebriate me. Water from the side of Christ, wash me. Passion of Christ, strengthen me. O, good Jesus, hear me. Within Thy wounds hide me. Never permit me to be separated from Thee. From the inignant enemy defend me. In the hour of my death, call me. And bid me come to Thee, that with the saints I may praise Thee for all eternity.

Amen."

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