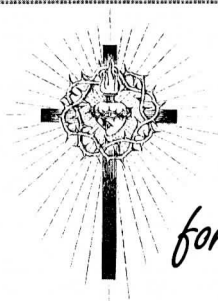


dimension of life. They understand the way God works in the soul of man. They realize fully the power of the love of God that dwells in them. With souls such as these, prayer is a way of life and they do not fall into the false assumption that certain prayers carry guarantees with them. Such souls do not strike bargains with God. They love! They pray! Nothing daunts them as they deal with the difficulties and the circumstances – both good and bad – that the Holy Will of God PERMITS to happen to them. They see a good God in all things and in all happenings, and their emotions are at rest in their proper object – God – and not superficially in themselves. Without impatience or aggravation, but with calmness and serenity in their minds and hearts, they pray, and as they pray, they struggle to conquer their faults and failings and to grow in virtue in order the better to pray. Day in and day out – they pray. Year in and year out – they pray. Their prayer is constant and consistent, with no on again, off again periods. It is always the same, always full of enthusiastic love and without discouragement. Always do they pray. Even when their prayer seems never to be answered, they pray. Years go by, they shed tears, many tears, still no answer – yet they pray. Weary because of the weight of their crosses (cancer, fallen-away family members, drunkenness, loss of income, loss of family and friends, divorce, etc.), yet their prayer is always in evidence. Even though the problems confronting them continue to grow worse, their HOPE never falters! Even though their eyes grow dim with tears, they always LOVE. Even though temptation besieges them at every turn they yet BELIEVE! With souls utterly wearied and heavy with grief, they ADORE! And their prayer to their God continues and continues and continues. Even though disappointment overwhelms them, yet “sturdy and staunch, they stand!” THEY NEVER PRESUME! Presumption is not to be found in the make-up of a true man of God. They ask! They cry! They wait! They labor and work! They suffer in silence! And so it goes on and on, yet with a beautiful serenity that becomes one who loves.

How beautiful such ones are. They are the true witnesses to the infinite goodness of God. They are the salt of the earth. □



*What have I given  
my Lord  
for all He has given to me?*

