



## The LOVING GAZE of GOD on US *20 May 1881.*

You may remember the story of the poor peasant who would go to church and remain a long time without moving his lips in prayer or reading a book. The Pastor asked him one day how he stayed so long and what he was doing. The man replied: "I look at Him and He looks at me." It's so simple, yet the essence of the interior life is there. Today, I recommend that you keep your gaze raised towards God

I look at Him! I look towards God. Whatever my work, whatever the hour of the day, my eyes are raised towards God, towards Our Lord Jesus Christ. I look at Him! My thoughts, my intentions go towards God. When I speak, when I am with people, when I am busy with work, I look towards God. I look at Him and He looks at me. At the same time that we look towards God, God is looking at us. God's loving gaze follows us everywhere. Our Lord Jesus Christ, triumphantly 'risen from the dead' become our advocate in the highest heavens, sees all we do for love of him. His gaze penetrates to the depths, to the most intimate recess of our souls; He follows all the movements of our life. He sees how we serve Him so He can be happy with us and so He can help us.

Indeed, you understand that the gaze of Jesus Christ is a help for his creature. When St. Stephen was dragged away by the evil men who wanted to stone him, he saw the heavens open and Jesus Christ at the right of the Father looking at him. Jesus was standing because, according to the commentators, he was helping in the combat. He looked at Stephen and his eyes communicated strength to conquer and to enter into eternity triumphant and standing also as the first martyr.

Jesus' gaze is our strength; it helps us to triumph, to give up our life, to walk upright. I have told you that uprightness and straightforwardness in our comportment, actions and words is one of the chief characteristics of the Assumption spirit. To live it, we go straight to God; we are simple; according to Francis de Sales that means we are not double. Have a pure intention directed towards God, not one eye on God and the other on earth, but a simple gaze always on God so that we do everything for God with a loyal heart and mind.

Our Lord is goodness itself. Could, He be happy in seeing what you do if your heart is not charitable? If you keep jealousy, irritation, bad attitudes there: A heart that is not devoted, generous, charitable and forgiving is not one that is consoling for Our Lord or where He dwells with pleasure. ...

God is like a limitless ocean in which we are always plunged. God is always present to you and you are always with God. Why aren't you always and everywhere, thanks to faith, in the sight and presence of God? Be faithful, then, and grateful. We sometimes feel alone or feel nothing; but if the certitude of faith assures us of this constant loving gaze of God, we can experience consolation.

God is faithful to the souls he has called and never abandons us, even doing miracles sometimes to sanctify us. If God deigns to be faithful to us, we should try to be faithful in

turn, especially since God gives us everything, goes before us, and leads us, as by the hand, into blessed eternity.

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