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## **“After death you will be welcomed by Love itself”**

Now you realize how much you have made Jesus suffer, and you are filled with sorrow. How easy it is to ask his pardon and weep for your past betrayals! Such is your longing for atonement that you cannot contain it in your breast! Fine. But don't forget that the spirit of penance consists mainly in the fulfillment of the duty of each moment, however costly it may be. (The Way of the Cross, Ninth Station, 5)

3 November

How marvelous it will be when we hear Our Father tell us, 'Well done, my good and faithful servant, because you have been faithful over a few things, I will set you over many; enter into the joy of your Lord!' [1]. Let us be full of hope! This is the great thing about being a contemplative soul. We live by Faith, Hope and Love, and Hope makes us powerful. Do you remember what St John says? 'I am writing to you, young men, because you are strong and the word of God abides in you, and you have conquered the evil one' [2]. God is urging us on, for the sake of the eternal youthfulness of the Church and of all mankind. You have the power to transform everything human into something divine, just as King Midas turned everything he touched into gold!

Do not ever forget that after death you will be welcomed by Love itself. And in the love of God you will find as well all the noble loves which you had on earth. Our Lord has arranged for us to spend this brief day of our earthly existence working and, like his only-begotten Son, 'doing good' [3]. Meanwhile we have to be on our guard, alert to the call St Ignatius of Antioch felt within his soul as the hour of his martyrdom approached. 'Come to the Father' [4], come to your Father, who anxiously awaits you. (Friends of God, 221)

[1] Matt 25:21

[2] 1 John 2:14

[3] Acts 10:38

[4] St Ignatius of Antioch, *Letter to the Romans*, 7 (PG 5,694)

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