

## 16. On prayer

in *Extracts from the Writings of R.P. de Clorivière classified in alphabetical order*

### 1. Prayer must be practical

See Considerations on Prayer... Part 2

Chap. VI - Prayer must be practical

Chap. VII - Attention that you must have to make your meditation practical

Letter to M. de Cice – 25 October 1805

You have not perfectly understood me as regards your meditation; I have only dissuaded you from reasoning too much to awaken in yourself feelings of devotion which are of no use and add no merit at all to your meditation. It will be very good when you can only say interiorly “Lord have pity on me”. I do not forbid you to have recourse to principal truths but it will be more helpful for you to recall the mysteries of Our Lord and all that could inspire you to confidence and conformity with Our Lord. Bear with neglect and beware of substituting your action for that of God.

### 2. Exterior attitude

Letter to Mme Clermont – 28 January 1806

One cannot pretend to meditate well without practicing mortification, specially that of the mind and of the heart; and the gift of prayer is promised only to those with a pure heart, that is to say, a heart detached from all earthly things and from self. Have this heart and no matter what posture you take, standing, sitting or kneeling, your prayer will always be well done. It is true that when praying, respect demands that one should take the most humble posture, but when for reasons of health one is unable to do so, one should not be anxious: humility of the spirit and of the heart will abundantly compensate before God.