

(1) Prayer for the Wise Ordering of One's Life

O merciful God,

whatever is pleasing

to you,

may I ardently desire,

wisely pursue,

truly recognize,

and bring

to perfect completion.

Aquinas at Prayer

For the praise
and glory of your name
put order into my life,
and grant
that I may know
what it is you require me to do,
and help me
to achieve
whatever is fitting
and necessary
for the good of my soul.

May my way, Lord,
be yours entirely,
upright and perfect,
failing
in neither prosperity
nor adversity
so that, in prosperity, I give you thanks,
and in adversity
serve patience,
neither exalted
in the former
nor dejected in the latter.

May I not rejoice
in anything
unless it leads me to you,
nor be saddened
by anything
unless it turns me from you.

May I not desire
to please

Make me, my God,

humble without pretense,
cheerful without frivolity,
sad without dejection,
mature without heaviness,
quick-witted without levity,
truthful without duplicity.

Let me fear you

without despair,

and hope in you

without presumption.

Let me correct my neighbour

without hypocrisy, and

without pride

edify him

by word and example:

obedient

without contradiction,

patient without murmuring.

Give me, dearest God, a vigilant heart

which no distracting thought

can lure away from you.

Give me a noble heart

which no unworthy desire

can ever debase.

Give me an unconquered heart

which no tribulation

can fatigue.

Give me a free heart
which no violent temptation
can enslave.

Give me an upright heart
which no perverse intention
can hold fast.

Grant me, Lord my God,

intelligence in knowing you,
diligence in seeking you,
wisdom in finding you,

conversation pleasing to you,
perseverance in confidently waiting for you,
and confidence in finally embracing you.

Grant that
as penance
I may be afflicted with your hardships,
as grace, make use
along the way, of your favours,
as glory, delight
in your joys in the fatherland.

Amen.