‘LIVE + JESUS”

The Direction of Intention
Scriptural References

- Mt 6: 9-15 (Lord’s prayer)
- Col 3: 17 (in the name of the Lord)
- Lk 1: 46-55 (Magnificat)
- Lk 23: 46 (into your hands...)

My God, I give you this action. Please give me the grace to conduct myself in a manner most pleasing to you.
Another Version

- My God, give me the grace to perform this action with you and through love of you. In advance, I offer to you all the good that I may do and accept all the difficulty I may meet therein.
Powerful Method

- The method of becoming holy by means of the advantages which Divine Providence places in our pathway at every step
Direction of Intention: Necessity

- For those who wish to prosper and to make progress in the way of our Lord (both exterior & interior acts)
- Prayed before all acts particularly the unusual circumstances. Never neglect it!
Three acts or aspects

- Asking for the necessary grace
- Offering up our action to God
- Preparing to endure with peace & calmness any suffering or mortification involved
Implications

- Surrender & Acceptance with calm and peace as if it were coming from God’s fatherly hand (joy & pain)
- Sharing in the suffering of Christ
- Like Christ, you accept the will of God in all things
More Implications

- It takes our life and binds it to God
- Powerful means of sanctification
- The light, the torch that guides us on the path to intimate union with God
- Makes the Incarnation apply to all—God living in us
- Unites our will and intellect constantly to God’s (thy will be done)
The practice

- Not a devotion, a fleeting act. It’s something constant, perpetual that fills the whole mind, the epitome of all the teachings of Scripture.

- Prayed repeatedly it becomes 2nd nature, like breathing
The habit

- The habit brings peace, quiet, wisdom, prudence, strength, and constancy because the closer you get to God, the more you grow to be like Him.
Habitual grace

- The soul that faithfully practices the Direction of Intention lives in a very special state of habitual grace.
Prayed with reverence

- Pray it with respect, love, devotion
- It sanctifies our life as it is the totality of all our actions
- It is one continuous act of love to the Savior
- Teach it to others
Commitment & Fidelity to this practice

- Gives interior joy & peace which bring other virtues as well as progress in perfection
- Results in directing one’s life in a particular manner & toward a goal (union)
Means to Holiness

- This unites us with God’s will in doing everything with Him, for him, and through him
- Our soul is yielding & complacent to God’s will
- Fr. Brisson: only means
Changes each act

- Trivial & insignificant actions become perfect acts of charity, almost acts of infinite worth
- Makes ordinary, extraordinary
- Makes sacred each act
God’s acceptance of the act

- God looks at acts prayed with the Direction of Intention not as coming from us but from the Savior.
- How could God not accept such an act as worthy?
Intentionality

- It is not by the multiplicity of things we do that we acquire perfection, but by the perfection and purity of intention with which we do them.

- Progress in the spiritual life is a matter of intentionality (from self-love to love of God)
In the love of God

- When our actions are in the love of God as we plan some work or undertake some project, all acts that follow take their value and derive their dignity from the dilection that gives them their origin. (Treatise, v. 2, p. 273)
Advantages of this prayer

- Trust more in God than self
- Avoid improper motives in our actions
- Avoid discouragement by moving forward confident in divine help
- Makes perfect the act regardless the outcome
- Allows for countless new beginnings
- Puts us in the way of Penance
- Gives immense supernatural value to all our actions
- Allows one to look on life with joy & optimism
- Secular>Sacred
- Mundane>profound
- Belong to God in the midst of so much busyness
St. Jane de Chantal

- We cannot always offer God great things, but at each instant we can offer Him little things with great love.
Union with God, Living Jesus

Everything tends toward union with God, a union which makes Jesus live in us and makes us another Christ walking the Earth (reproducing Christ).