

Day 29 (3/22) - **From temptation of vices**

Lorica:

**Save me...
from temptation of vices**

Bible Passages:

1 John 2:16:

For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world.

1 Corinthians 10:13:

No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

Questions for reflection:

1. We don't talk a lot about vices, but they are the opposite of virtues. What are some vices that get commonly overlooked or ignored (yet are real)?

2. How does inviting God into our struggle against vice change the way we approach the struggle?

3. What are some practical ways to protect yourself from the vices that tempt you?

Day 30 (3/23) - **From everyone who shall wish me ill**

Lorica:

**Save me...
from everyone who shall wish me ill**

Bible Passages:

Psalm 138:7:

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life. You stretch out your hand against the anger of my foes; with your right hand you save me.

John 15:18-19 and 16:33:

"If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you...I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

Questions for reflection:

1. Is there any strength that comes from knowing that there are those who "wish you ill"?
2. We are taught to "fight for ourselves." How do things change when we seek God for protection against those who oppose or seek to harm us?
3. What can help us to "rest" in God's protection from the evil (or just selfish) intents of others?

Day 31 (3/24) - **All these powers between me and those evils**

Lorica:

I summon today,

**All these powers between me and those evils
Against every cruel and merciless power
that may oppose my body and soul,
Against incantations of false prophets,
Against black laws of pagandom,
Against false laws of heretics,
Against craft of idolatry,
Against spells of witches and smiths and wizards**

Bible Passages:

Nahum 1:7:

The LORD is good,
a stronghold in the day of trouble;
he knows those who take refuge in him.

Ephesians 6:12:

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

Questions for reflection:

1. How does it change your perspective to think that God has placed the resources of heaven at your disposal in times of trouble?

2. Reflect on Ephesians 6:10-20. How does this help us to “summon” the powers of God to protect us throughout the day?

3. How do we actively keep the spiritual dimension of our daily struggles in our awareness?

Day 32 (3/25) - **Against every knowledge that corrupts man's body and soul**

Lorica:

**I summon today [all these powers],
against every knowledge that corrupts man's body and soul**

Bible Passages:

Mark 4:18-19:

And others are the ones sown among thorns. They are those who hear the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.

2 Corinthians 10:3-5:

For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ

Questions for reflection:

1. What kinds of knowledge fits the description of “corrupting body and soul”?
2. We often hear “knowledge is power.” How does the prayer of Patrick make you rethink (or refine) this way of looking at knowledge?
3. What are some ways you can actively “take every thought captive”?

Day 33 (3/26) - **Against poison, burning, drowning, wounding**

Lorica:

**I summon today [all these powers]...
Against poison, burning, drowning, wounding**

Bible Passages:

Isaiah 43:1-2:

"Fear not, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you."

Luke 10:19:

Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you.

Questions for reflection:

1. How does make you feel to think that God cares deeply about your physical life?
2. The focus in the prayer isn't on accidents, it is on persecution. How does this concern in Patrick's prayer bring perspective to you when you think about your daily life?
3. Think about our "siblings" around the world, how can you identify with their struggle more personally?

Day 34 (3/27) - **Christ with me**

Lorica:

Christ with me

Bible Passages:

Matthew 28:19-20:

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them inⁱⁿ the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”.

John 14:3:

And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.

Revelation 3:20:

Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.

Questions for reflection:

1. How does it change the way you approach your day if you start by recognizing that Christ is actually with you now?

2. What kinds of things get in the way of being aware of the Presence of Christ in your daily experience?

3. How can you “practice” the Presence of Christ more effectively?