

Handwriting With the Saints



*All quotes in this book were taken from:
The Manual of the Holy Catholic Church,
Imprimatur 1906*

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The Teaching of the Saints

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy hath regenerated us unto a lively hope, by the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, unto an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled, and that cannot fade, reserved in heaven for you."

1 St. Peter i. 3, 4.

"When the goodness and kindness of God our Savior appeared; not by the works of justice which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us." Titus iii. 4.

Charity of God Towards Mankind

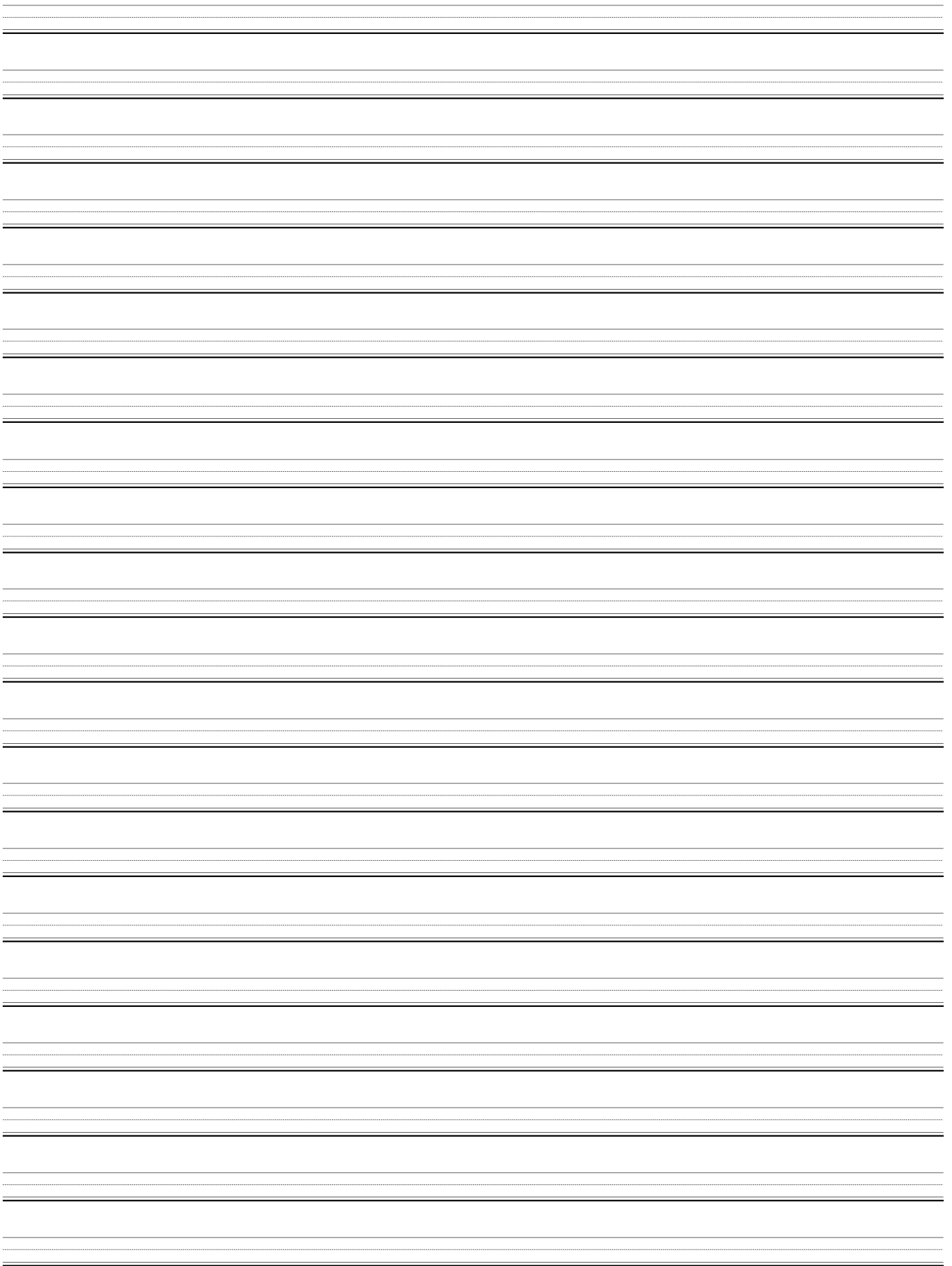
By this hath the charity of God appeared towards us, because God hath sent

His only begotten Son into the world that we may live by Him.

In this is charity; not as though we had loved God, but because He hath first loved us, and sent His Son to be a propitiation for our sins.

If God hath so loved us; we also ought to love one another."

1 St. John iv. 9, 10, 11.



Charity

"For such is the eternal law of the Creator, that all those who labor unitedly for His honor shall prosper in everything, that their efforts shall be crowned with success, inasmuch as they have with them God and all His creation."

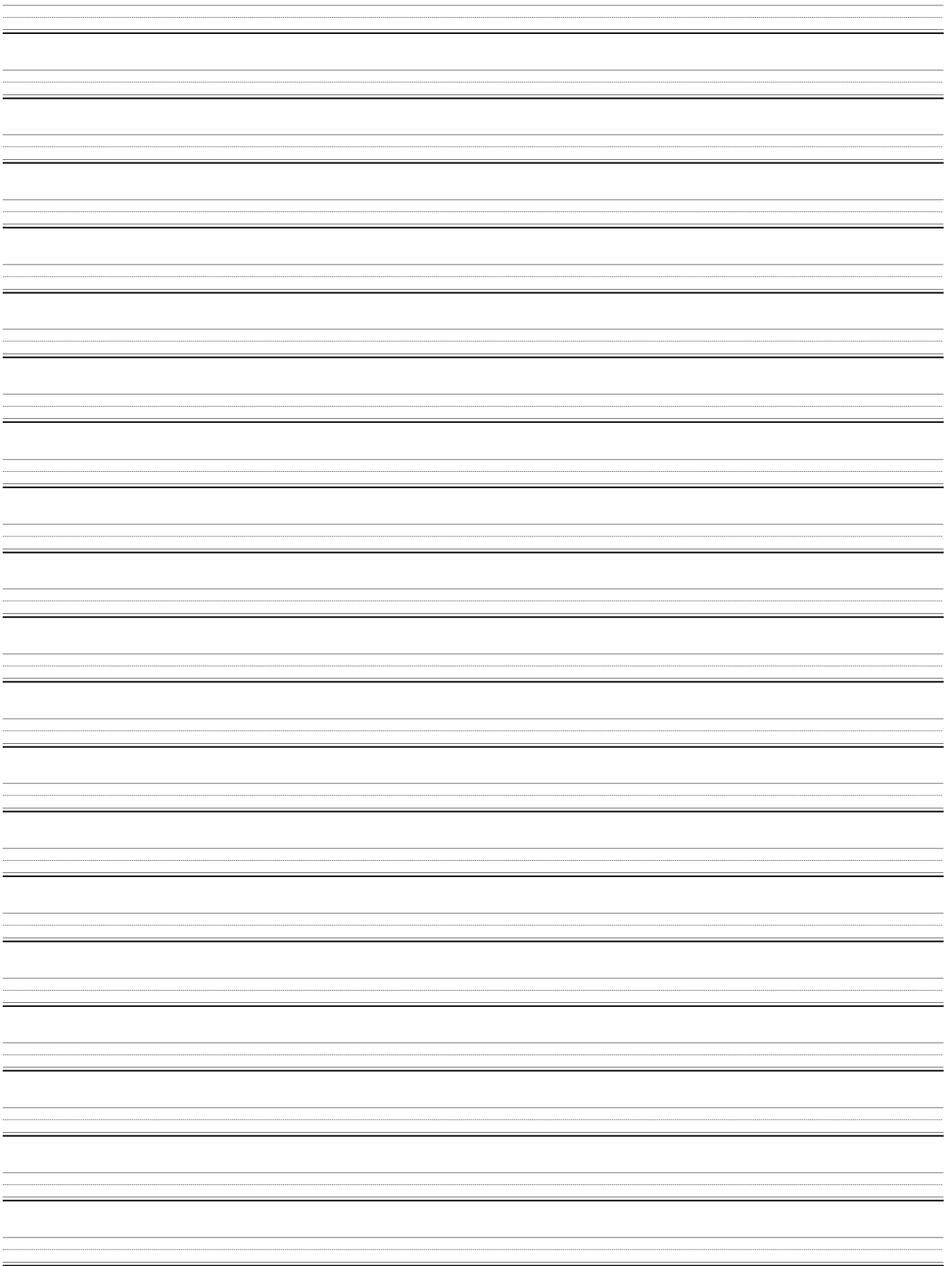
St. Angela Merici.

"Charity is patient, is kind: charity envieth not, dealeth not perversely: is not puffed up; Is not ambitious, seeketh not her own, is not provoked to anger, thinketh no evil. Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth with the truth: Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Charity never falleth away: whether prophecies shall be made void, or tongues shall cease, or knowledge shall be destroyed."

1 Cor. xiii. 4, 5, 6, 7, 8.

"By charity alone are the children of God distinguished from the children of men."

St. Austin.



Union and Charity

"Let the bond of charity so draw you to each other, that you may prize and esteem each other, and support each other in Christ Jesus. If you are earnest in your endeavor to be thus united, doubt not but our Lord God shall be in the midst of you." St. Angela Merici.

"Mutual love and union of wills are an infallible sign that the road we follow is the good road, that which leads to God."

St. Angela Merici.

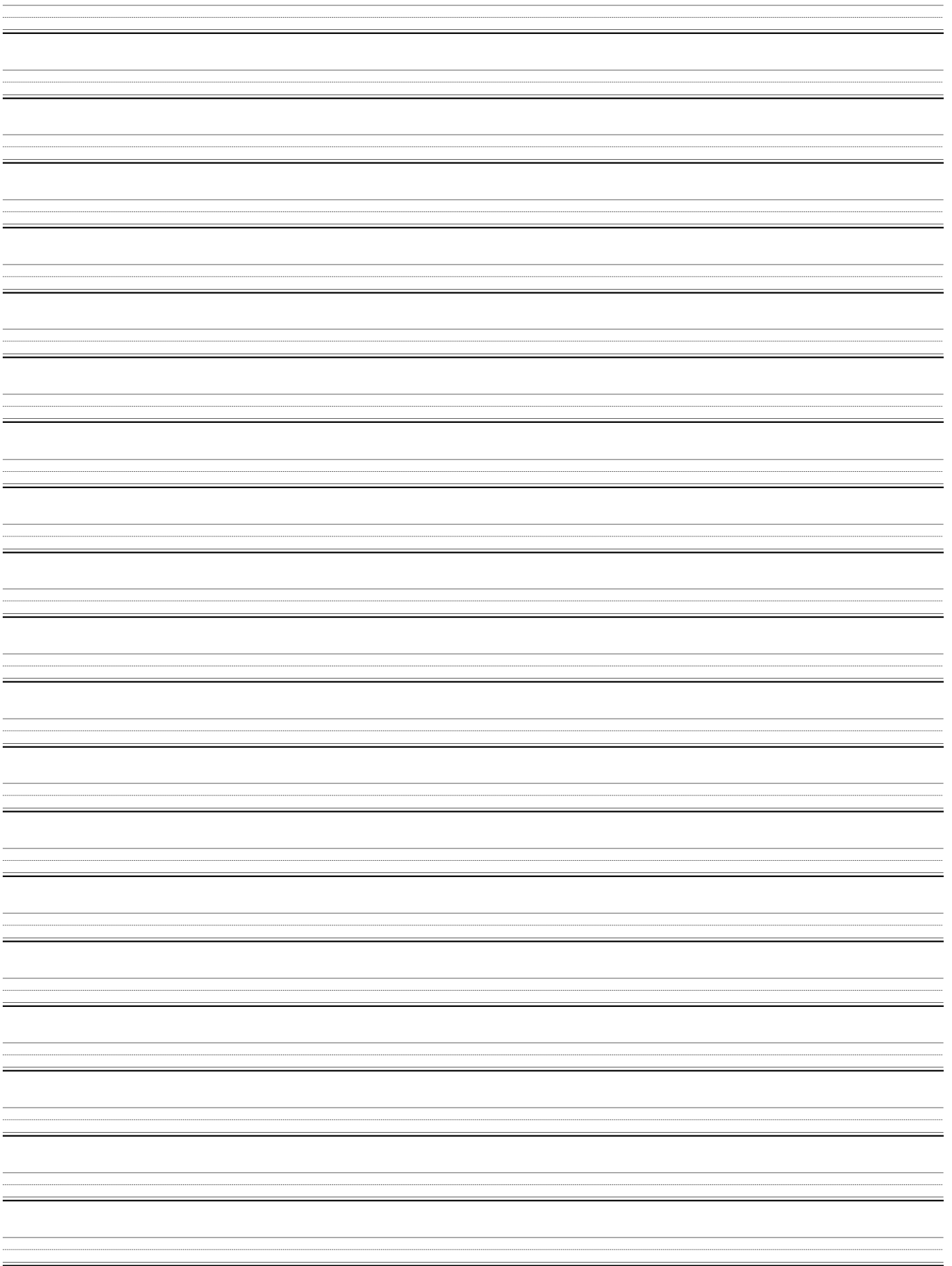
The Virtue of Faith

"Faith Cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God."

Rom. X. 17

"Without Faith it is impossible to please God." Heb. xi. 6.

"Your faith is confirmed, not only in the hearts, but before the eyes of men. Heaven bears witness to it, and the earth likewise, the angels in glory, and the fiends in hell." St. Augustine



"The light of faith makes us discover in the poor the true likeness of the Son of God, who was not content with being poor, but who also wished to be called the Master, Doctor, and the Father of the poor."

St. Vincent de Paul

"There are no greater riches, no greater treasures, no greater honors, no greater substance of this world than is the Catholic Faith, that saves men that are sinners, enlightens the blind, heals the sick, justifies the faithful, repairs the penitent, increases the justice of the just, crowns the martyrs."

St. Augustine.

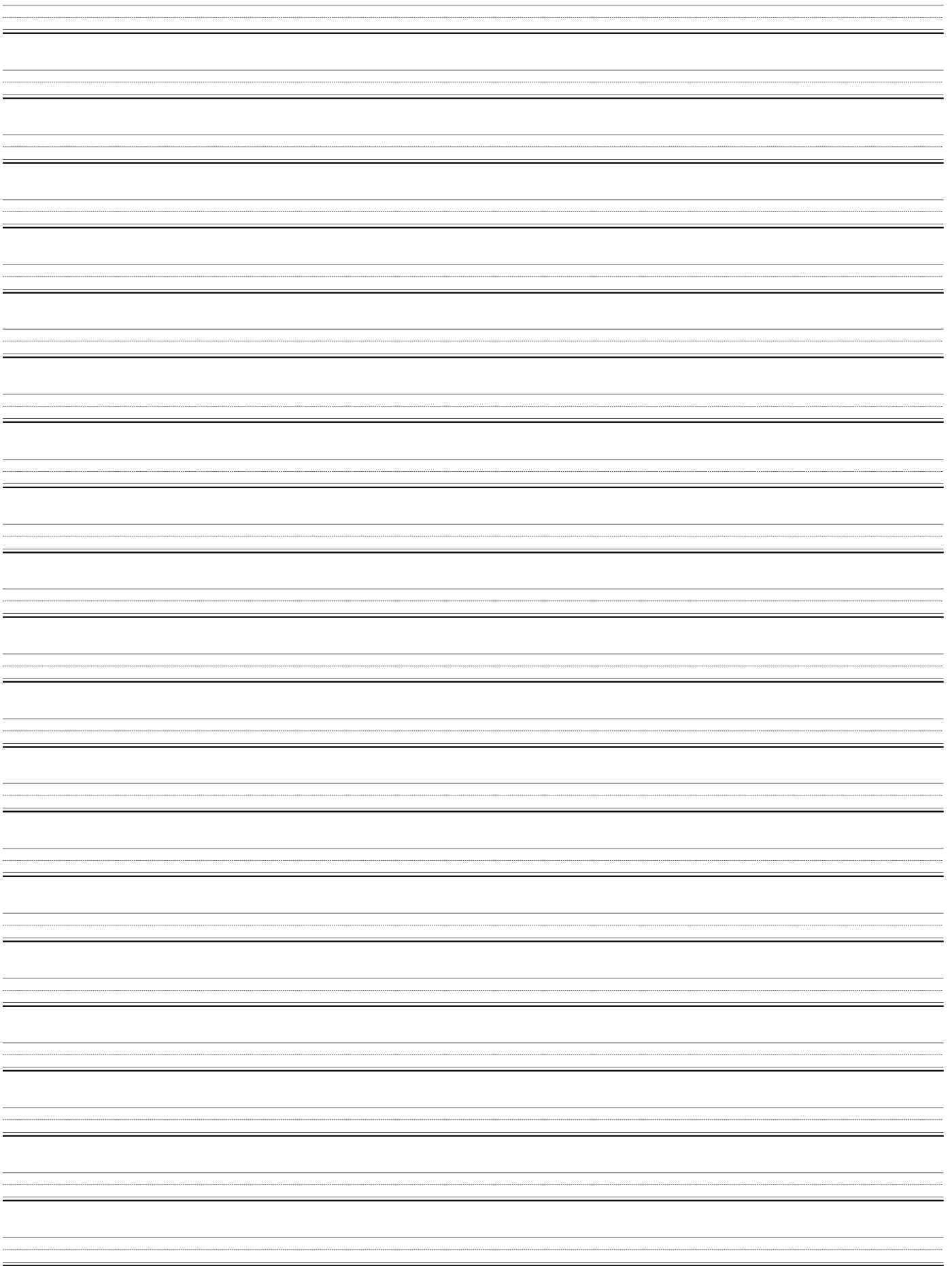
Hope

"The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope and in the power of the Holy Ghost. Hope confoundeth not."

Rom. xv. 13: v 5.

"Injustice would be done the infinite mercy of God, unless we believed firmly that God would never fail to reward abundantly those who serve Him faithfully by the exact observance of His holy law."

St. Francis Xavier



"O Hope! sweet Sister of Faith, it is thou that with the key of the Precious Blood dost open the portals of life eternal. Thou guardest the city of the soul against the enemy of confusion. Thou dost not slacken thy steps when the demon would seek to trouble the soul with the thought of her sins, and so to cast her into despair, but generously pressing on in the path of virtue, and putting in the balance the price of the Precious Blood, thou placest the crown of virtue on the brow of perseverance." *St. Catherine of Sienna.*

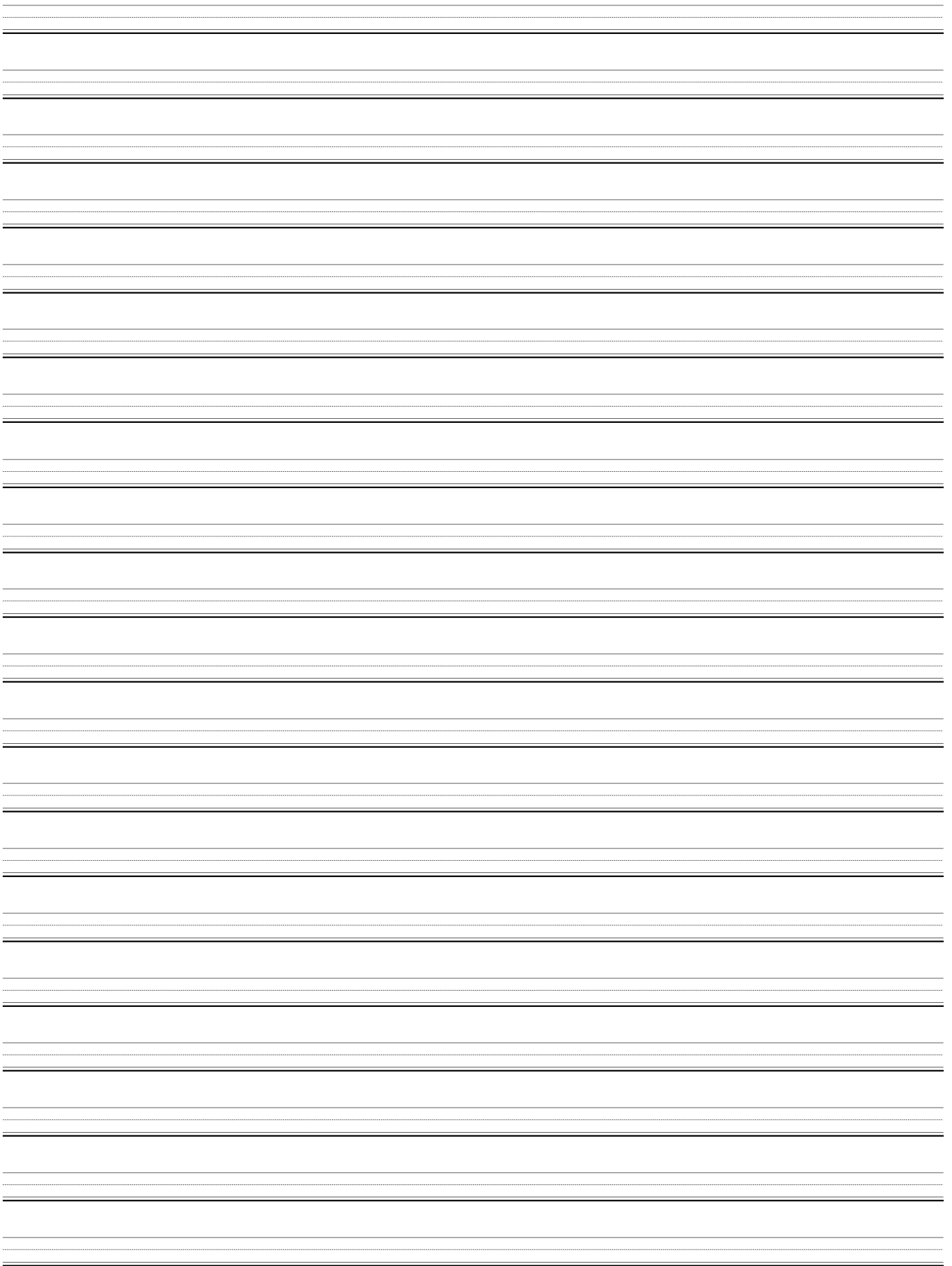
On the Holy Mass

"God, though omnipotent, cannot give anything greater; though full of wisdom. He could think of nothing more valuable; though most rich, He has no greater treasure to bestow upon us than what He has given us in the Sacrifice of the Mass."

St. Augustine.

On Holy Communion

"One of the most admirable effects of Holy Communion is to preserve souls from falling, and to help those who fall from weakness to rise again; therefore it is much more profitable frequently to approach this Divine Sacrament with love, respect, and confidence, than to keep back from an excess of fear and cowardice." *St. Ignatius.*



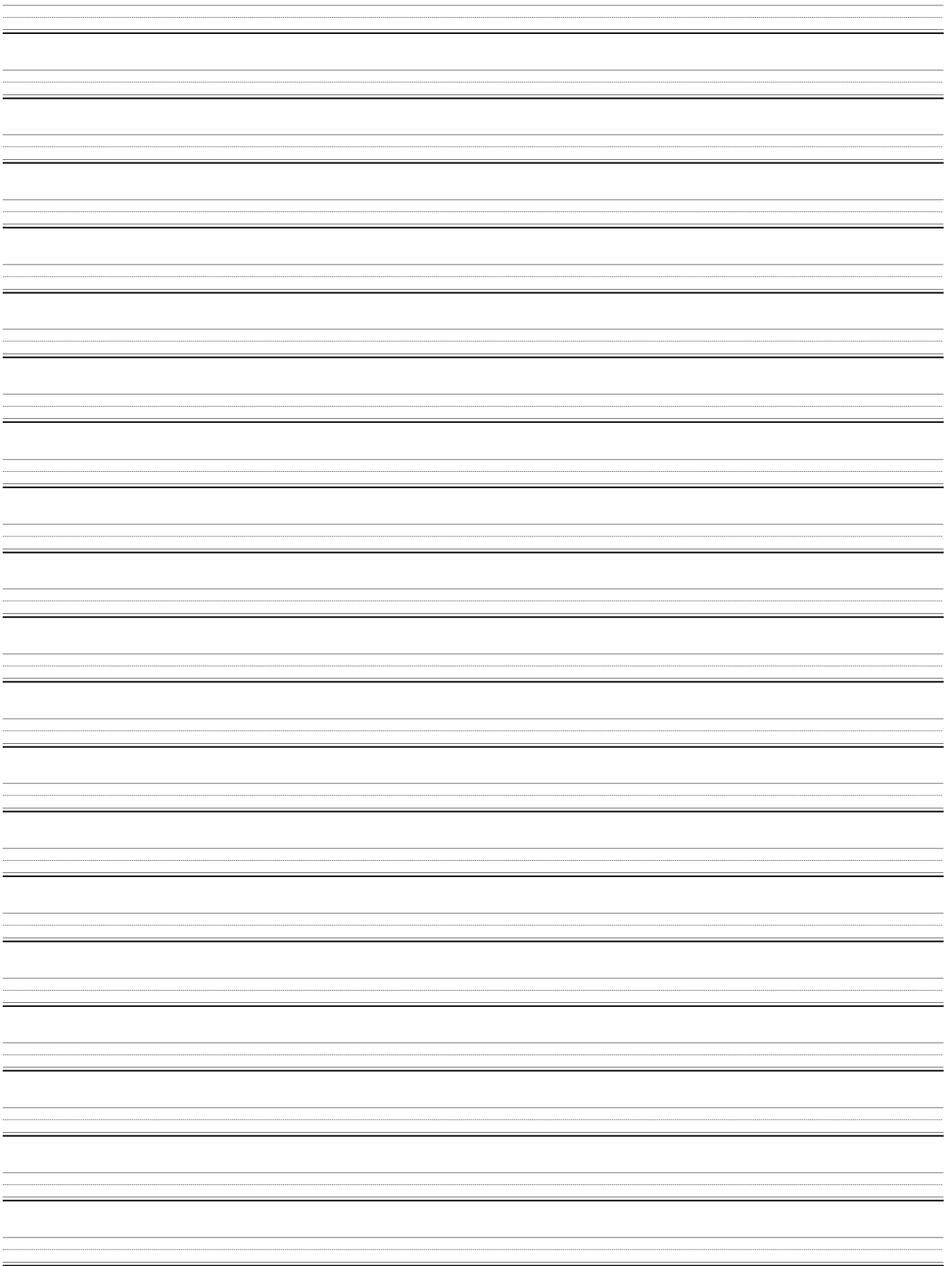
On Preparation for Holy Communion

"When we approach the altar we must, with God's help, prepare ourselves with all our power, and search into every corner of our souls, lest any sin be hidden therein. For, if Christ sees us clothed with the light of charity, He will give us of His Flesh and Blood, not to our condemnation, but to salvation." *St. Augustine*

"If you expected a visit from a great personage, to whom certain objects in your house should be offensive, would you not remove them before his arrival? When, then, you wish to receive Jesus Christ, you should remove from your breast all earthly affections which you know to be displeasing to Him. He who wishes to communicate often must empty his heart of the things of earth." *St. Augustine*

Prayer

"Prayer is the key of heaven; prayer ascends and mercy descends; high as are the heavens and low as is the earth, God hears the voice of men."
St. Austin



"What can be more excellent than prayer? What is there more profitable in this life, and more sweet to the mind? And what in our holy religion more sublime?" St. Augustine

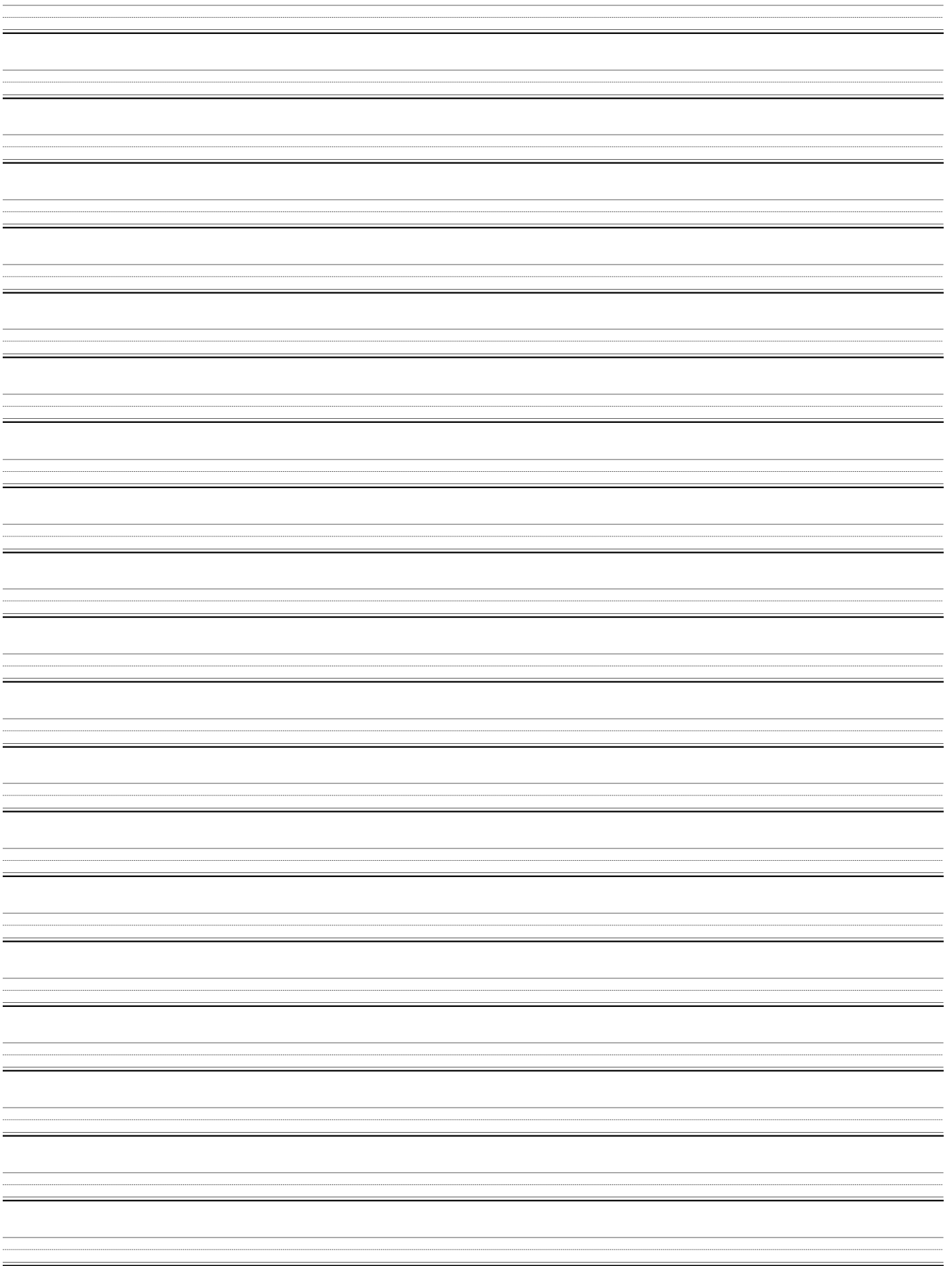
Truth

"Truth always shines with the brightness which belongs to it, while falsehood is wrapped in darkness; to dispel this darkness it is enough to put falsehood in the presence of truth." St. Ignatius

Confidence in God

"He who falls into a fault, however light it may be, ought to rise immediately, have recourse to God, beg pardon of Him, and ask grace never to commit it again." St. Aloysius.

"Place your hope and firm trust in God, He will surely help you in every difficulty. Be instant in praying to Him, in humbling yourselves before His Almightyness; for most assuredly since He hath trusted this undertaking to you, so will He give you strength to carry it out, provided only that you fail Him not. Do your duty therefore, go about your active functions, be full of trust, of courage, of high hope; send up your heart-cry to God in your need, and doubt not but you will see Him do great things for you, while you aim at doing all things for the praise and glory of His infinite Majesty."
St. Angela Merici



"When Confidence fails, prayer loses its value." St. Austin

Fortitude

"Fortitude renders us generous and constant in the service of God; enables us to be as joyful under labors, tribulations, and sickness, as in prosperity and health, and to thank God equally in both states." St. John of God

Obedience

"Obedience will open for us with perfect security the gate of heaven, closed for us of old by contempt of God's command, and still closed to those who are guilty of the same crime." St. Vincent de Paul

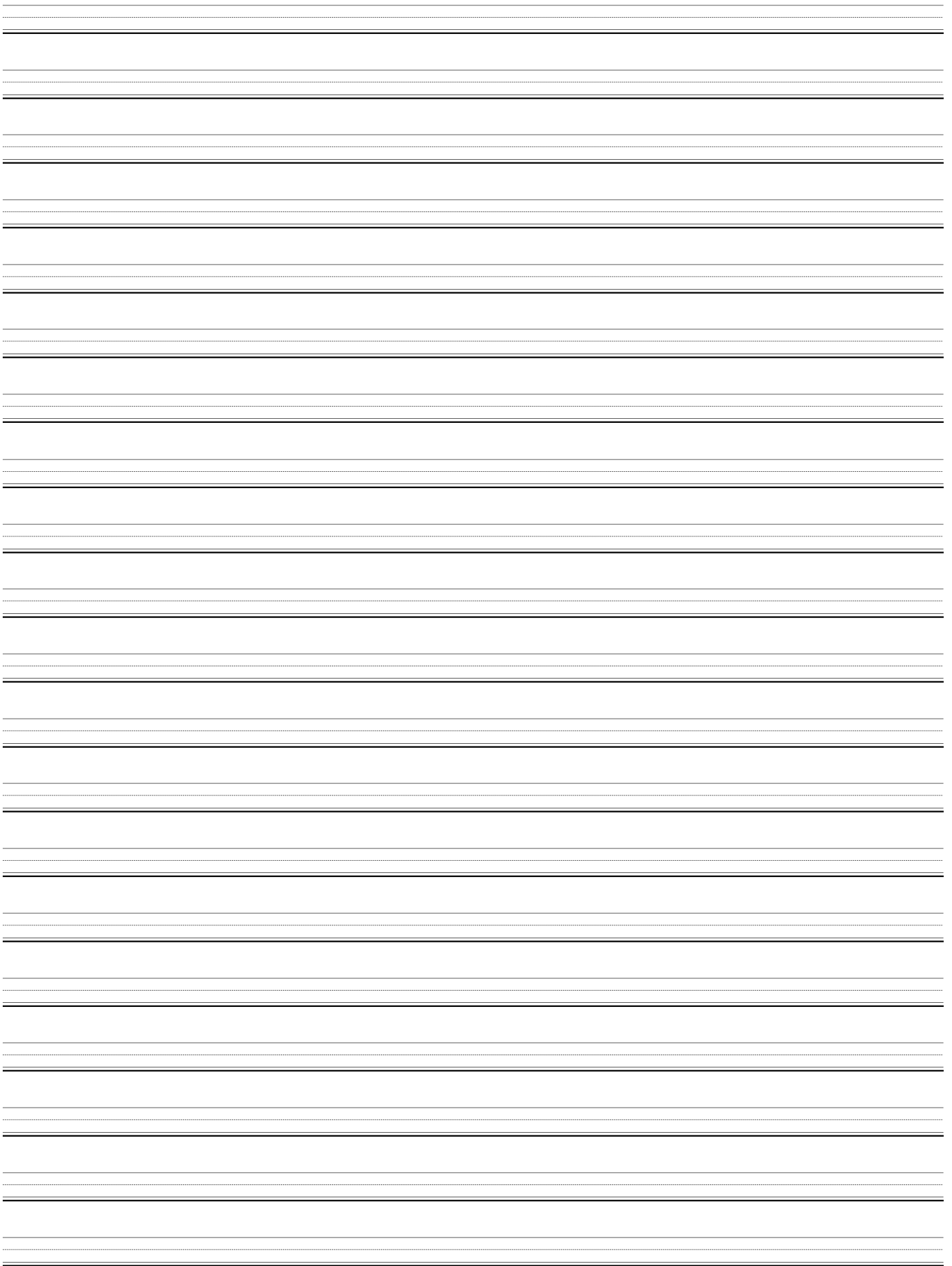
"Whoso liveth under obedience must allow himself to be ruled by Divine Providence, through his Superior, just as though he were a dead body."

St. Ignatius

Fidelity in Little Things

"He who does not excel in little things, will never do so in great."

St. Francis Xavier.



Purity of Intention

"God bestows more consideration on the purity of intention with which our actions are performed, than on the actions themselves."

St. Vincent de Paul

Means of Acquiring Perfection

"Think well, speak well, do well: these three things through the mercy of God will make a man go to Heaven."

St. Camillus of Lellis

Holy Fear

"The fear of God is a sign of predestination." St. Augustine.

Evils of Idleness

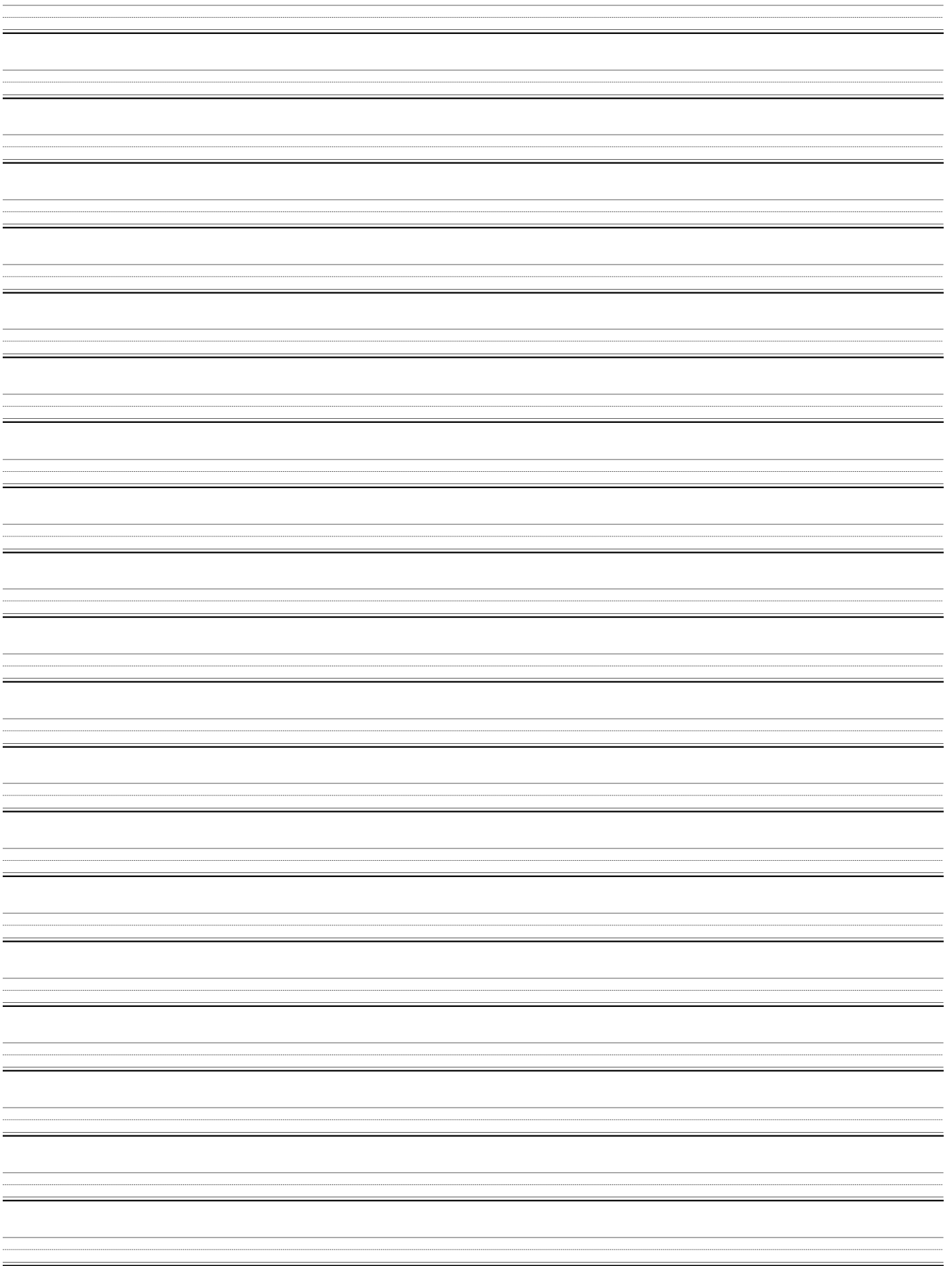
"Idleness begets a life of discontentedness, it develops self-love, which is the cause of all our miseries, and renders us unworthy to receive the favors of Divine love."

St. Ignatius of Loyola

The Praise of God

Would you know the way to praise God always? Perform well what you do, and you will praise Him constantly.

St. Augustine



Diligence

"If you sometimes find yourself so distracted by a number of duties that you cannot manage them all, do as much as you can and be content with that, and even give thanks to God for the particular blessing that He has led you to work in a place where there are so many sacred duties to be performed that you cannot be idle, however much you might wish it, for this is in truth one of the greatest blessings that God bestows. Imagine yourself in Purgatory making satisfaction for your sins; you will think yourself very happily dealt with in that God gives you the troubles of this life, instead of the torments of the fire of Purgatory." St. Francis Xavier

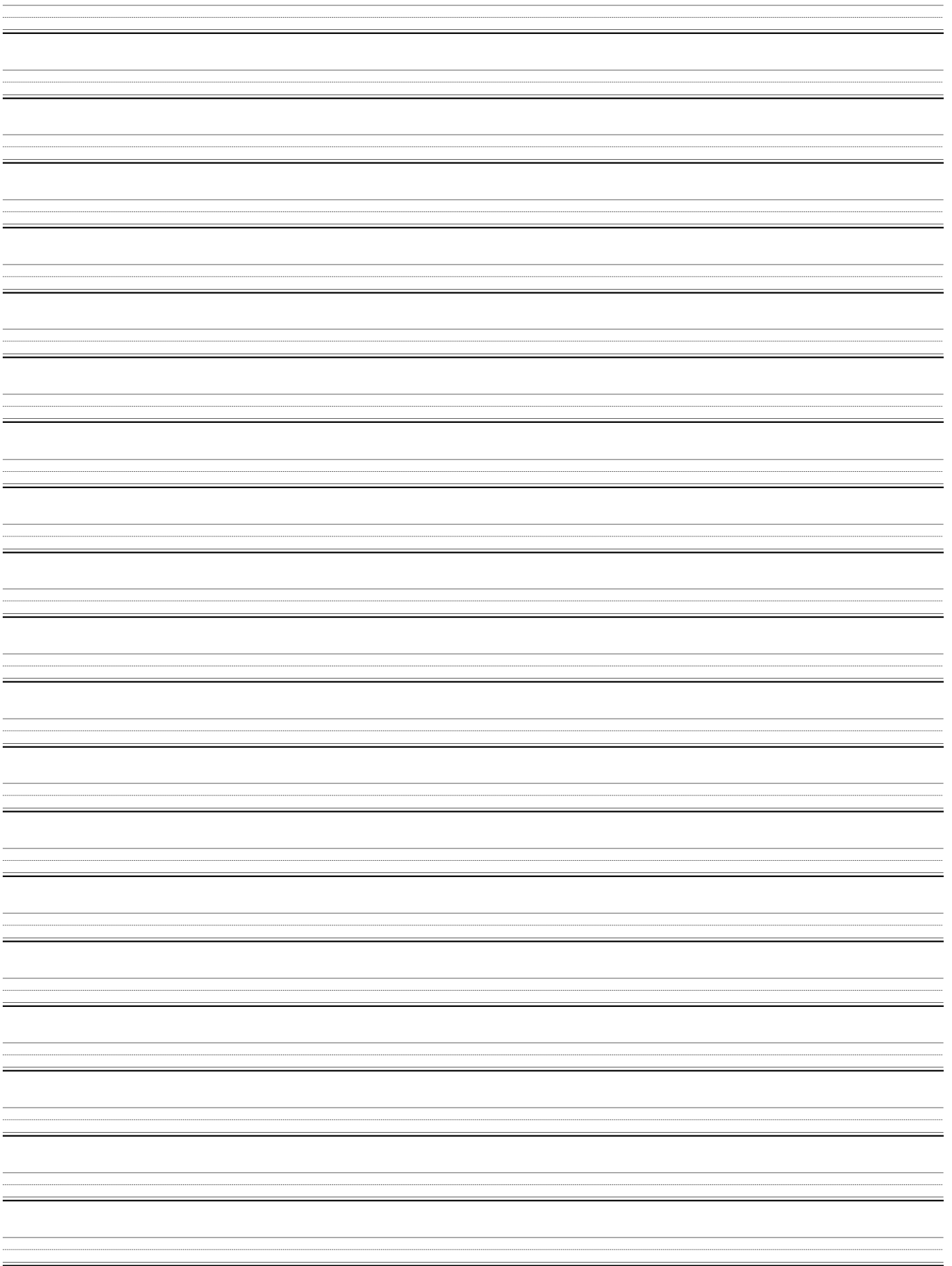
Purgatory

The souls in Purgatory having their wills perfectly conformed to the will of God, and hence partaking of His goodness, remain satisfied with their condition, which is one of entire freedom from the guilt of sin.

St. Catherine of Genoa

No tongue can express, no mind can understand, how dreadful is Purgatory. . . . And be assured that the souls have to pay what they owe even to the last farthing. This is God's decree to satisfy the demands of justice.

St. Catherine of Genoa



"The hindrance that the soul meets with in its desire of seeing God and being united to Him, causes it to feel an intolerable pain; and the pain, together with the hindrance, obstructs those properties which it has by nature, and which by grace are revealed to it; and not being able to retain them, although capable of them, the soul remains in suffering great in proportion to its appreciation of God. This appreciation of God grows with its knowledge, and its knowledge is greater the more it is free from sin; and the delay becomes more and more terrible, because the soul, wholly immersed in God, knows Him without terror, there being nothing in the way to prevent such a knowledge." St. Catherine of Genoa

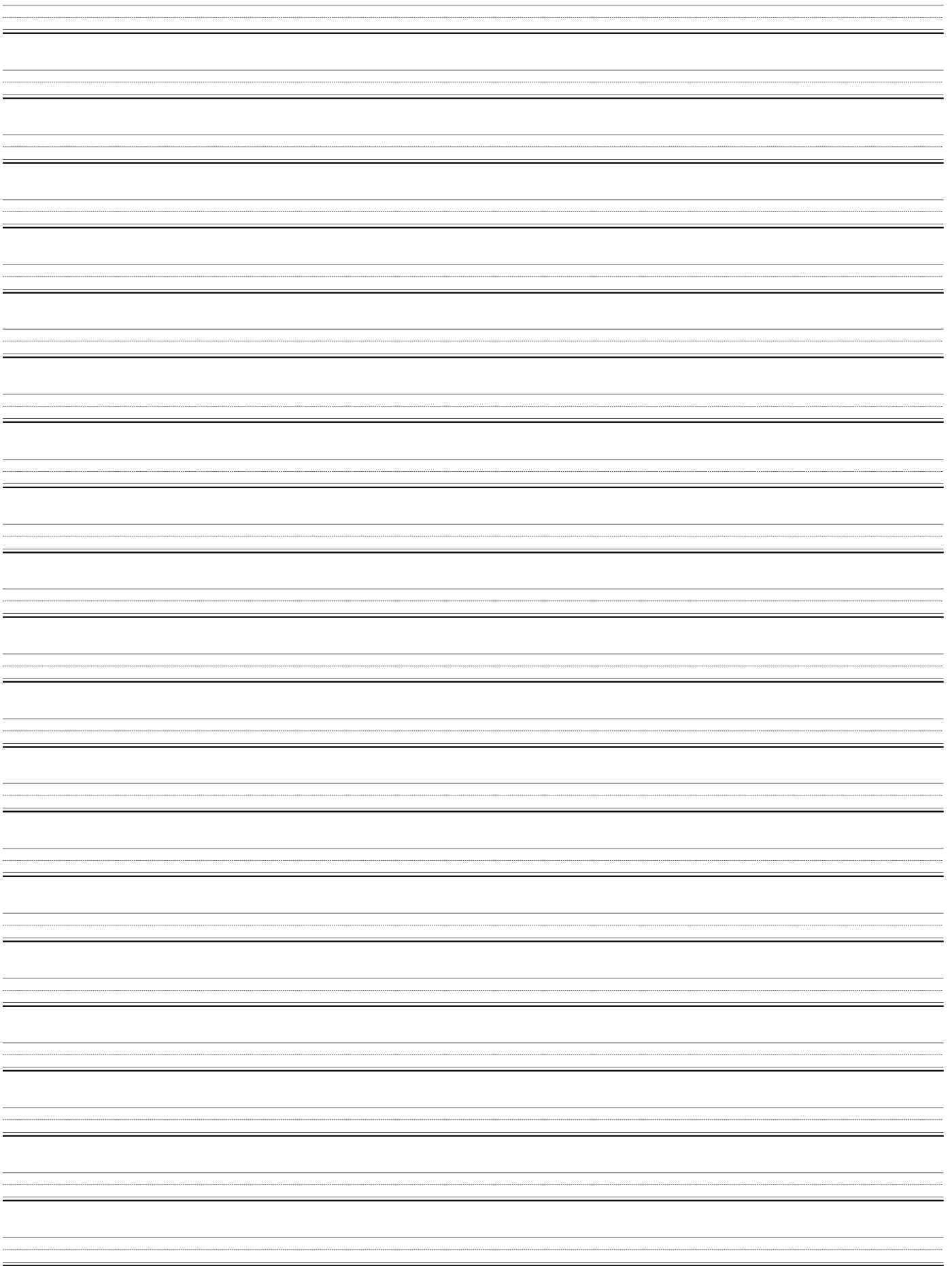
Kindness

"Whenever you see a weak soul, timid and disposed to lose hope and heart, comfort her, give her courage, open up to her the bright vision of God's mercy, and enable her shrinking heart to open itself wide to the sweet influence of consolation." St. Angela Merici

"

We should be cordial and affable to the poor and to those of humble condition. We should not treat them imperiously; pride is revolting to them. When we are affable towards them they become more docile, and derive more advantage from the advice they receive."

St. Vincent de Paul



Meekness

Meekness and forbearance towards our neighbor are a source of peace and a bond of perfection by which hearts are united.

St. Vincent de Paul

Humility

"Humility is the groundwork of every virtue, wherefore in the soul in which humility is not there can be no other virtue, unless indeed in appearance."

St. Augustine

"Humility is the virtue of Our Lord Jesus Christ."

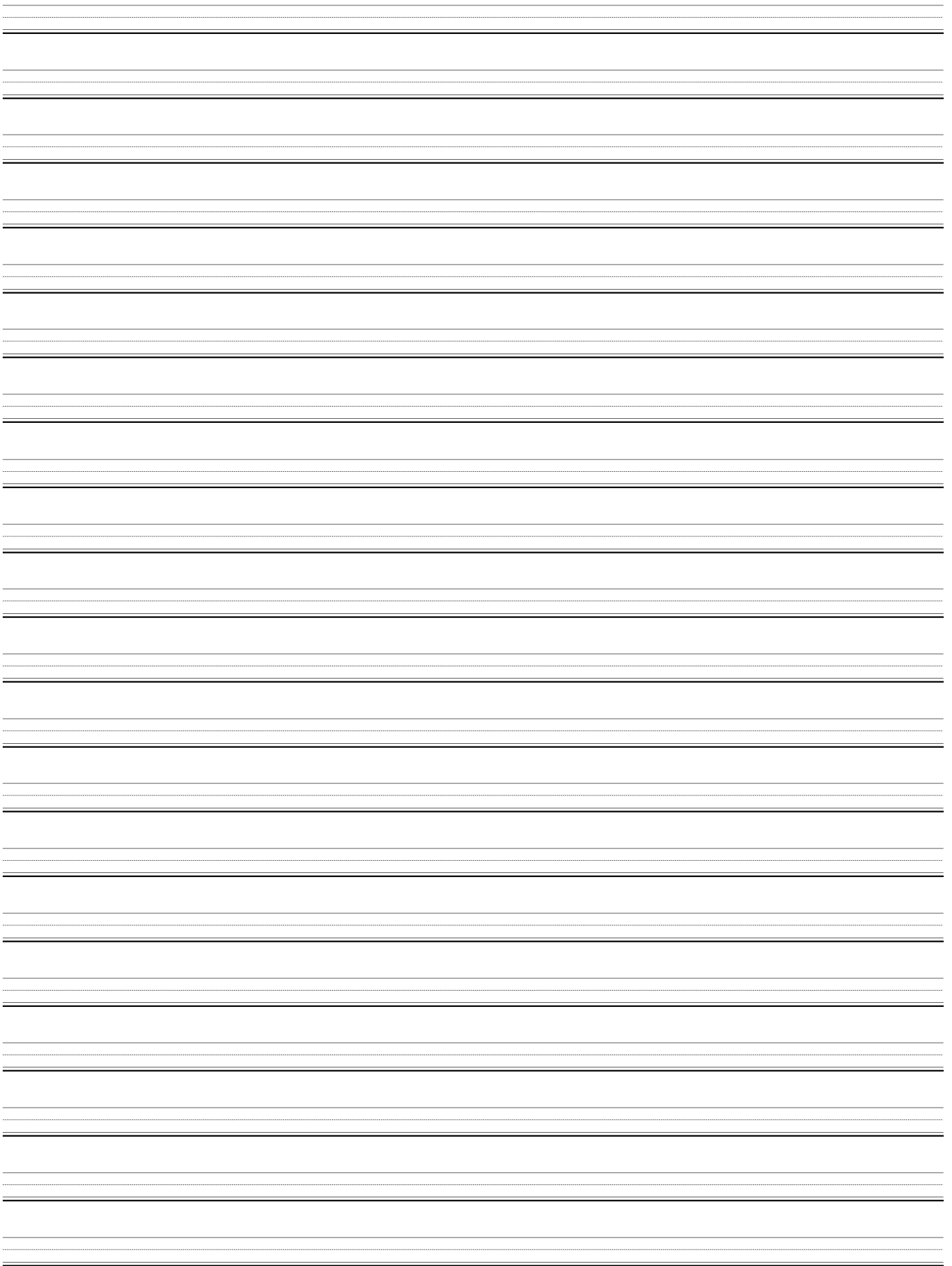
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St. Ignatius



Constancy

"Be constant, and you shall see the help of God over you: and now we are praying for you, that you yield not to sorrow, but that your virtue may appear more bright in tribulation." St. Joseph Calasanctius

On Good Will

"And so, if you cannot do all you wish, be glad to do what you can, since it is not your fault that all the progress which you might desire has not been made." St. Francis Xavier

Courtesy

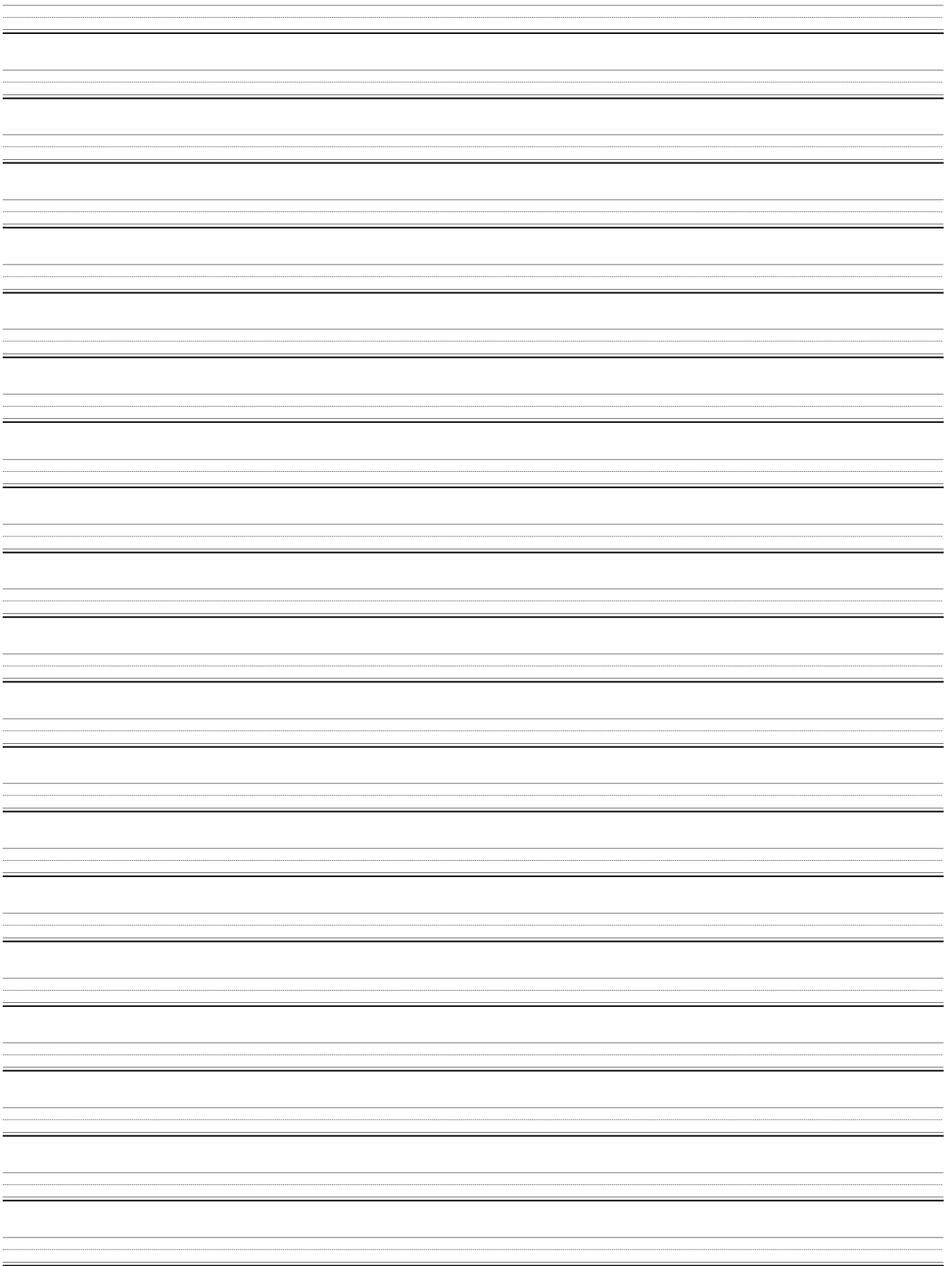
"You will effect more by loving words and a courteous manner, than by bitterness or sharp reprehension, which should never be used but in extreme necessity." St. Angela Merici

Mercy and Compassion

Compassion for the poor had always been the characteristic virtue of St. Peter Nolasco. Whenever he saw any poor Christian slaves, he would say: "Behold eternal treasures which never fail."

Affability

"Affability induces us to bear with each other, and to listen with patience to what others may say, and whilst charity unites us like members of the same body, affability perfects this Divine union." St. Vincent de Paul



"We ought to behave sweetly towards all, with such a demeanor as is wont to spring from a tender heart filled with Christian charity, that is, with affable love and humility; these virtues serve admirably to gain the hearts of men, and to encourage them to embrace even what is most repugnant to nature."

St, Vincent de Paul

Love and Respect for the Poor

"God loves the poor, and consequently He loves those who have an affection for the poor; for when we love anyone very much, we also love his friends and servants."

St. Vincent de Paul

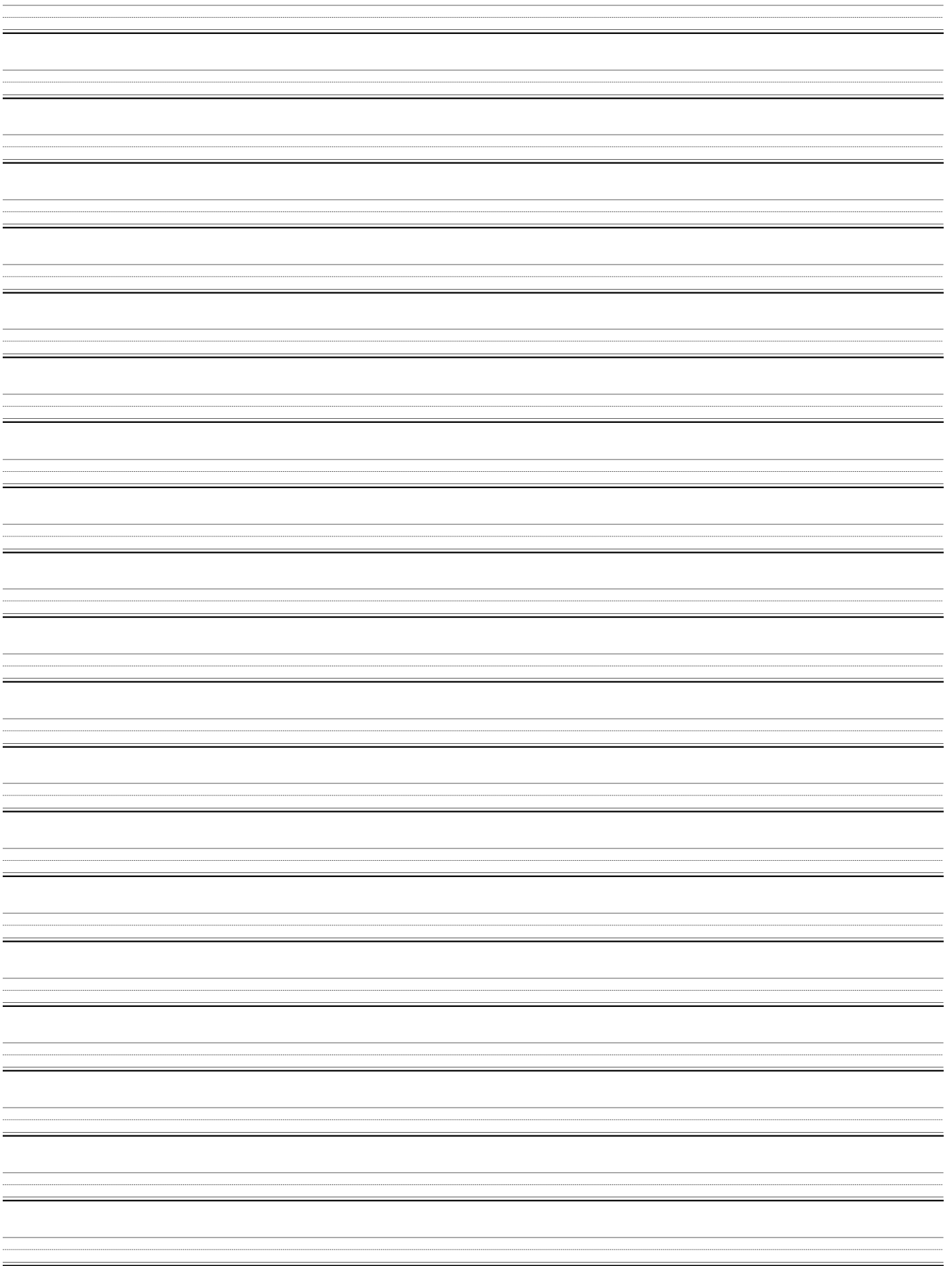
Care of the Sick

St. Vincent de Paul was most attentive in providing relief and comfort for the sick, often going himself to inquire into their condition and their needs; he advised the infirmarians to take all possible care of them, and the Superiors of houses to spare no fatigue or expense in providing for them. He tried to soothe their sufferings by special marks of love and attention, and offered his prayers to God on their behalf.

On Joyful Suffering for Christ's Sake.

"My children, we resemble the Apostles in one point, that we suffer reproach for the name of Jesus. Let us also endeavor to imitate them in the point immediately preceding this:— The Apostles went forth rejoicing."

St. Joseph Calasanctius



Generosity in the Service of God

"Let us love God with purity and innocence. A heart which serves Him for a reward is not pure. What then? shall we have no reward for serving Him? We shall indeed, but it will be that very God whom we are serving.

He will be our reward, "because we shall see Him as He is."

Consider what this will be. What does Our Lord Jesus Christ say to those who love Him? "He who loves Me keeps My commandments; and My Father loves him who loves Me, and I will love him." St. Augustine

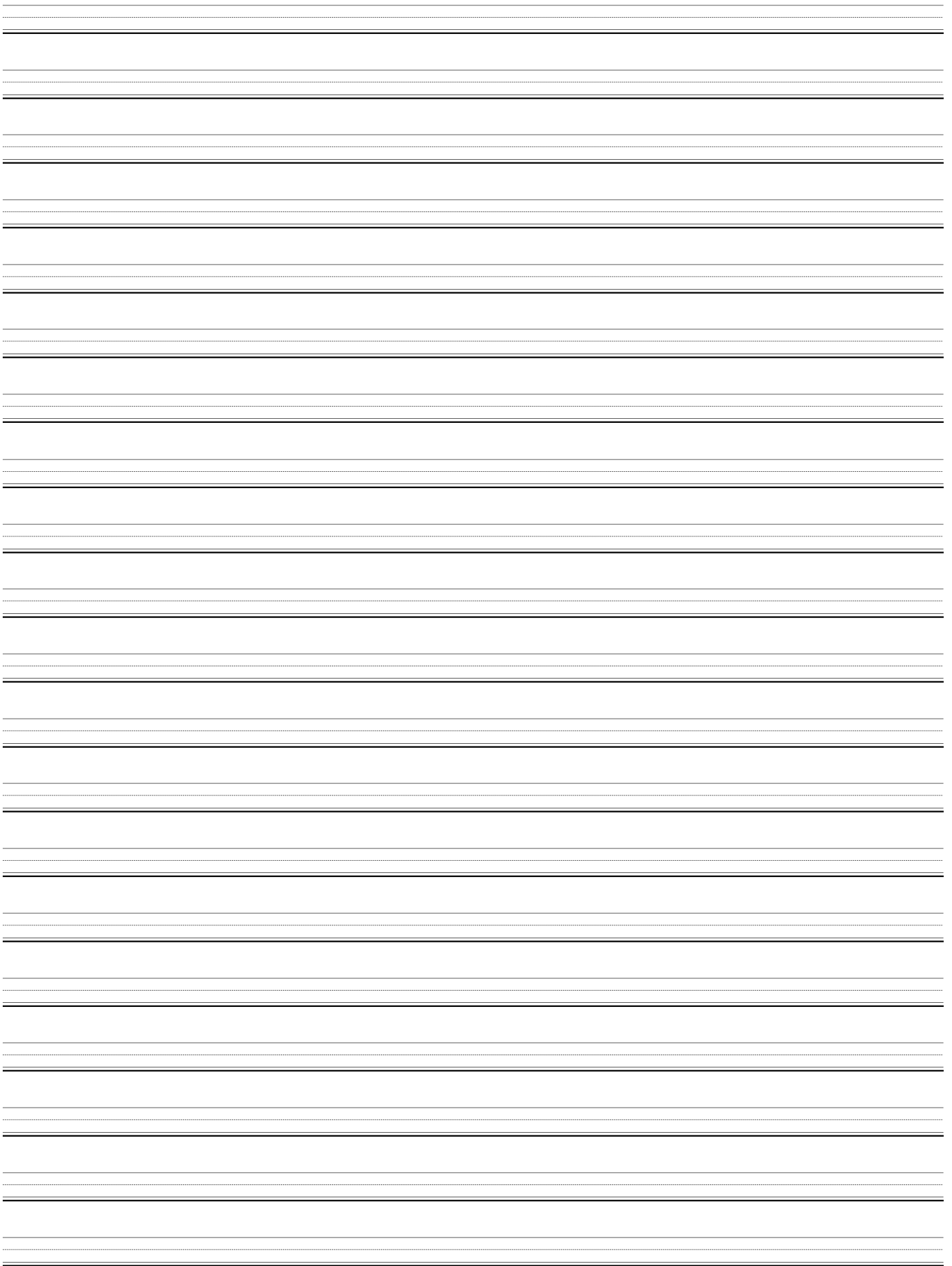
Care of the Sick

St. Camillus considered himself the servant of the sick, and wished the poor people to believe that he was entirely at their service. "Dear brother," he said to a sick man who had grown impatient and dissatisfied, ' I beseech you for the love of Jesus Christ not to weep and lament any more; I am here ready to serve you, and to do what ever you order me, and be assured that I will not leave you till I see you perfectly satisfied."

Blessings Hidden in Infirmities

If we did but know the precious treasure that is hidden in infirmities, we should receive them with the same joy with which we receive the greatest benefits, and we should support them without lamentations and without ever giving any signs of being troubled.

St. Vincent de Paul



Patience in Suffering

not truly love Him, if he has not
suffer for His sake." St. Aloysius.

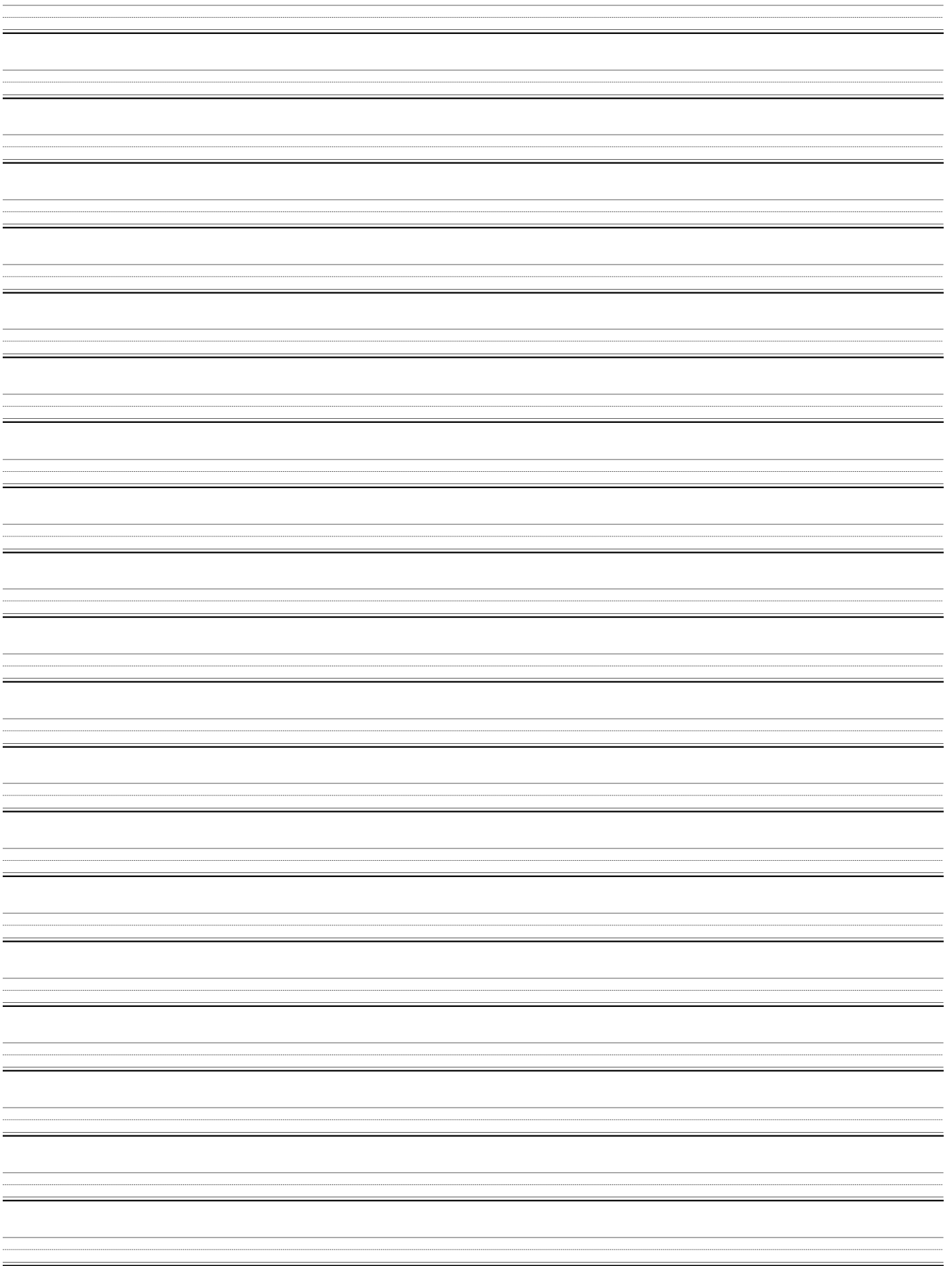
Patience in Suffering

so much, and gives me so much
and it seems to me that if I had not
should live the most wretched life
give me my choice, whether to go now
longer to suffer, I should choose the
for I know how much glory is
St. Catherine of Sienna

Providence of God

our best welfare than we are ourselves,
means of promoting it better than we,
of the universe; wherefore in all the
certainly that happens which is best.

St. Augustine



Recollection of Spirit

“Disengage thyself from earthly care, and give thyself for a time to think of God, and to repose a little in Him, and having closed the door of thy senses say with the affections of thy soul: Lord, I am in quest of Thy lovely countenance, teach Thy poor servant how to find it.

St. Augustine

Advantages of Poverty

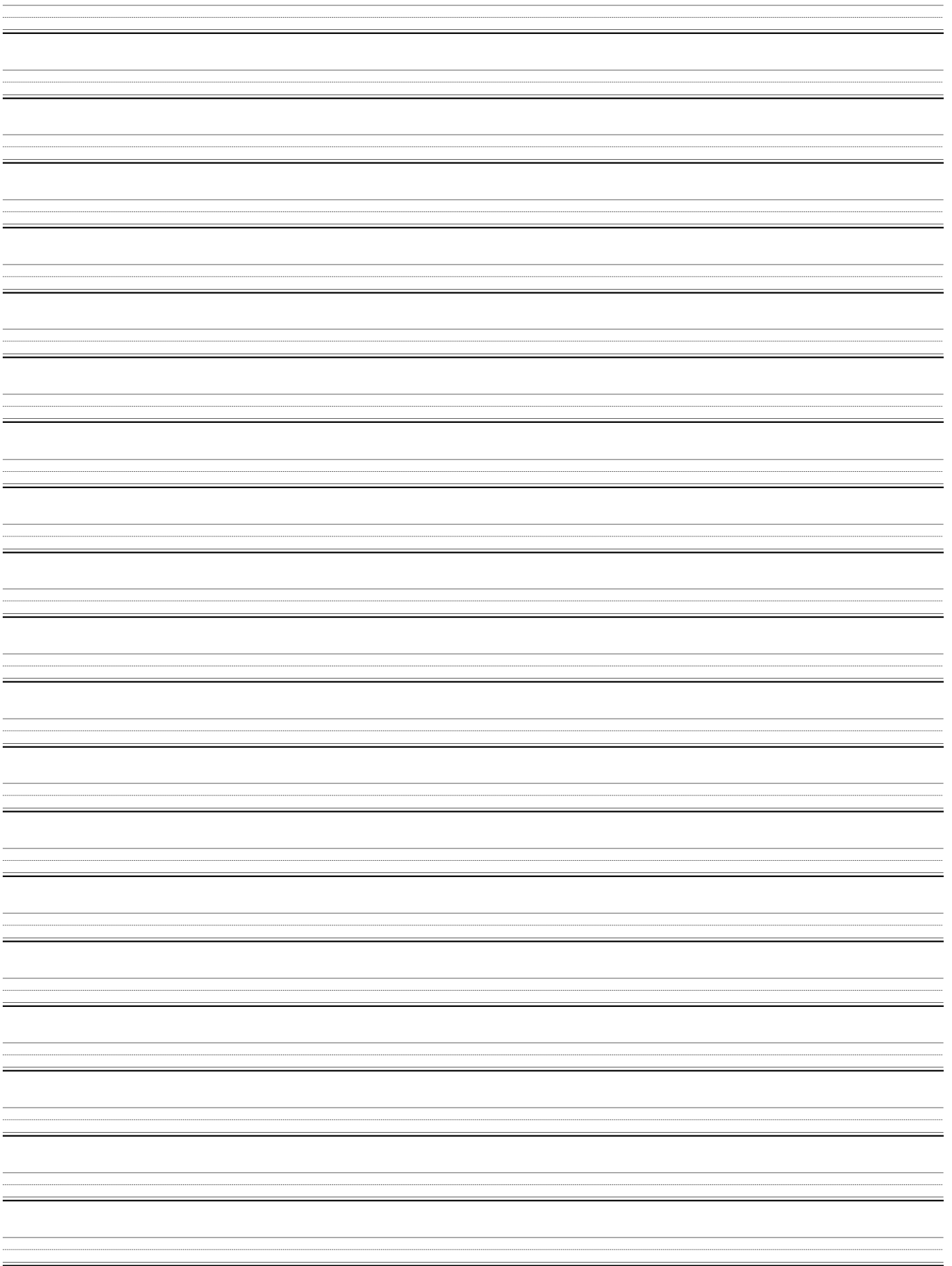
“We are happy when the Lord places us in a condition to honor His poverty by ours; we are then under the happy necessity of depending in all things on Divine Providence. We have a thousand opportunities of relying on His bounty, of sympathizing with the miseries of the poor, and of practicing many acts of patience.”

St. Augustine

The Rewards of Heaven

“A precious crown is reserved in heaven for those who put into their actions all the diligence of which they are capable, for it is not enough to do good, we must do it well.”

St. Ignatius



The Future Rewards

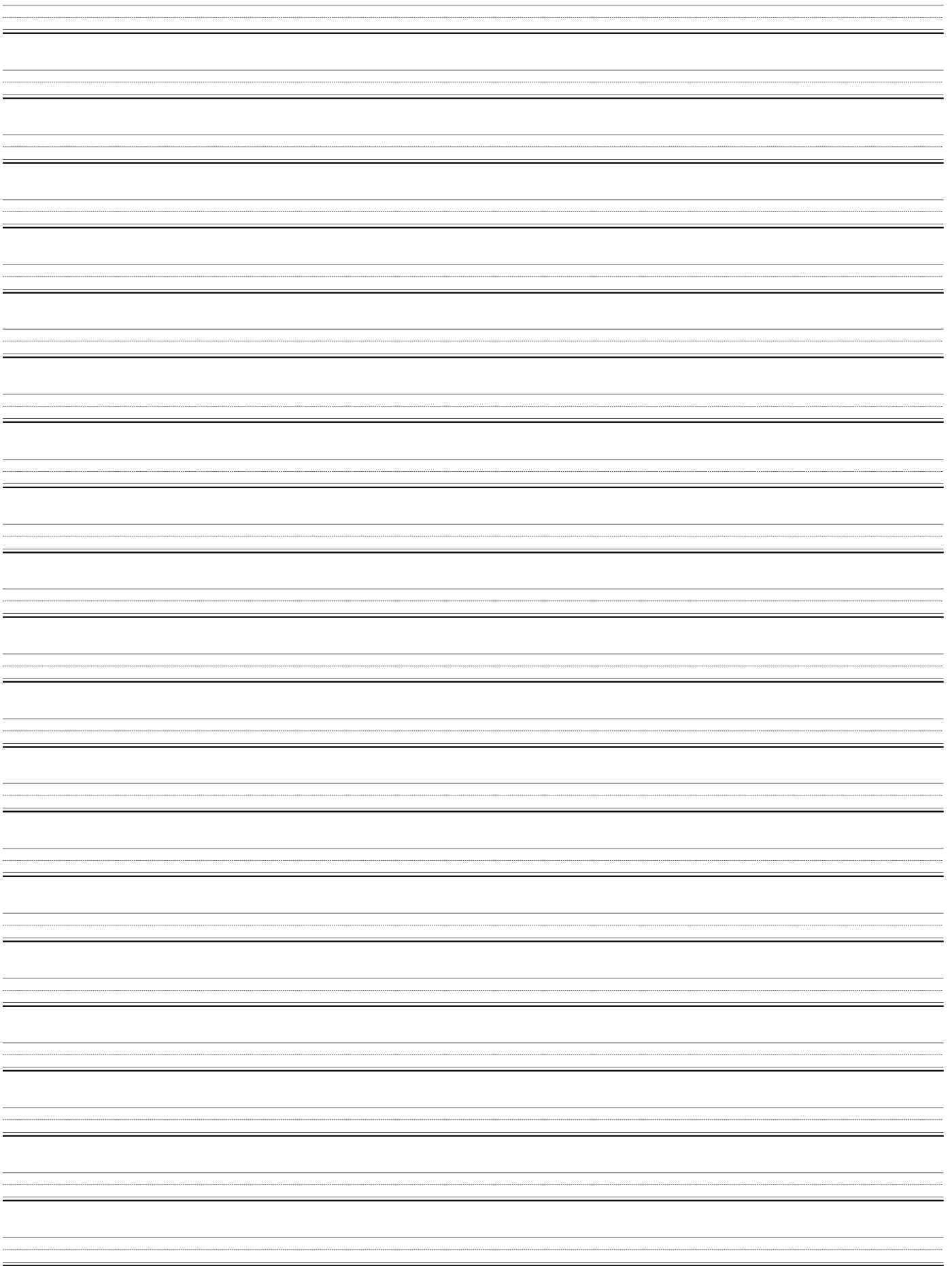
"If we could see the reward that is given in the other world to our good actions, we should employ our understanding, memory, and will in nothing else than doing good, without heeding any fatigue or labor."

St. Catherine of Genoa

Salvation is From the Cross

"All those who belong to Jesus Christ are fastened with Him to the Cross. ... A Christian during the whole course of his life should, like Jesus, be on the Cross. It would be an act of rashness to descend therefrom, since Jesus Christ did not descend, even when the Jews offered to believe in Him. The time for driving out the nails of this Cross was only after death; there is then no time to extract the nails whilst we live; we must wait until our sacrifice is consummated. . . . So strong sometimes are the storms of life that strength of arm is of no avail, and there is no other means to save us from shipwreck than trusting in the Cross of Jesus Christ by which we are consecrated."

St. Augustine



Souls Detached From Earth

“God takes special care to detach those whom He loves with special predilection from the passing pleasures of this world, by sending them desires after heavenly bliss, and by the sorrows and bitterness of the present life.”

St. Ignatius Loyola

True Knowledge.

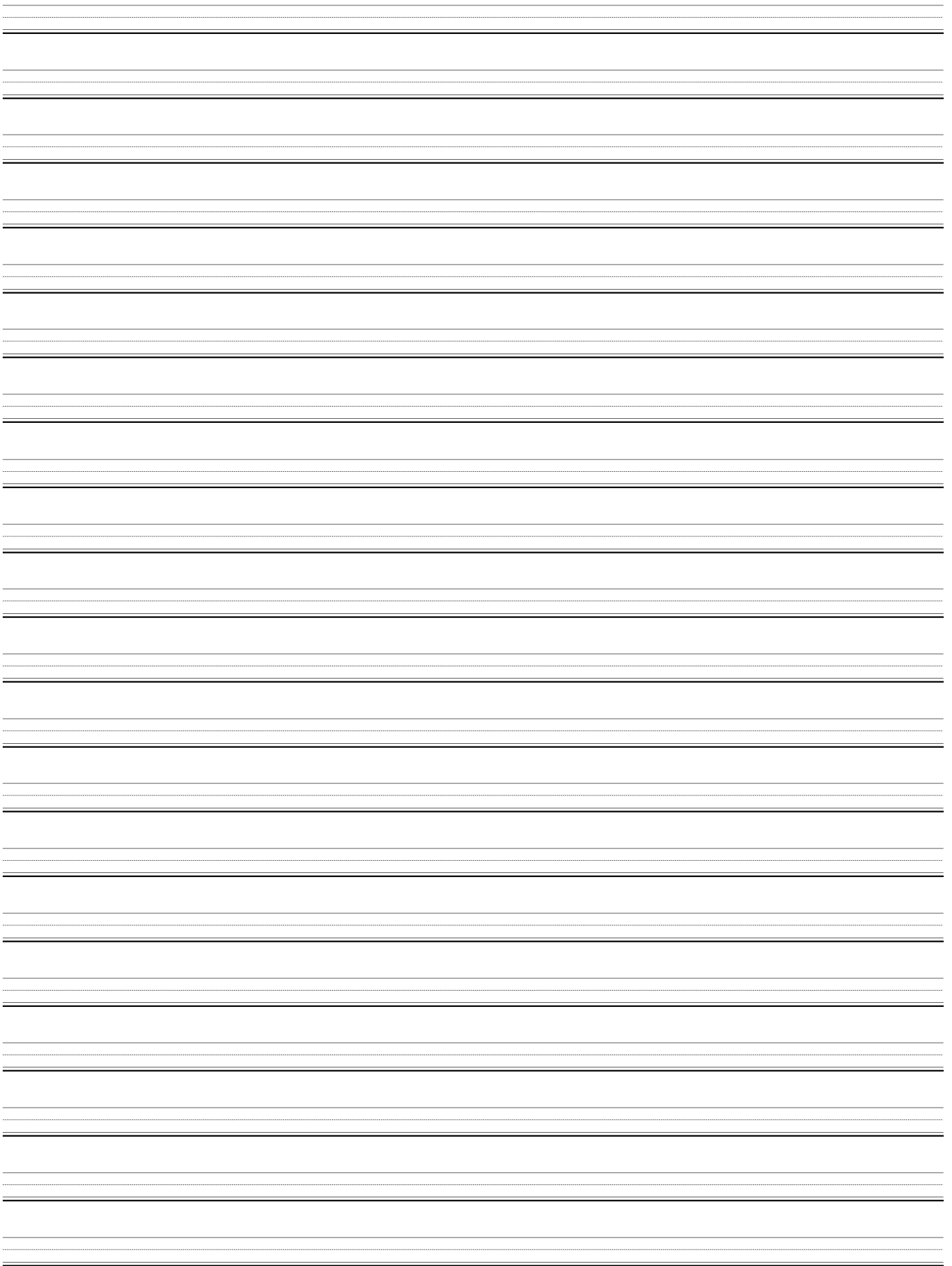
“Happy is he who knows God, His greatness and His goodness, although he be ignorant of all besides, for he who knows God cannot help loving Him; now he who loves Him is wiser than all the learned of the earth who have not this love.”

St. Augustine

Evils of Worldliness

“The world is more dangerous when it flatters us than when it ill-treats us. We should be more careful of trusting it, when it invites us to love it, than when it admonishes us, and compels us to despise it. They who follow the maxims of the world experience nothing but misery, and the flattering expectation of happiness is delusive and vain. Would you wish not to be an enemy of God? Do not be a friend of the world.”

St. Augustine.



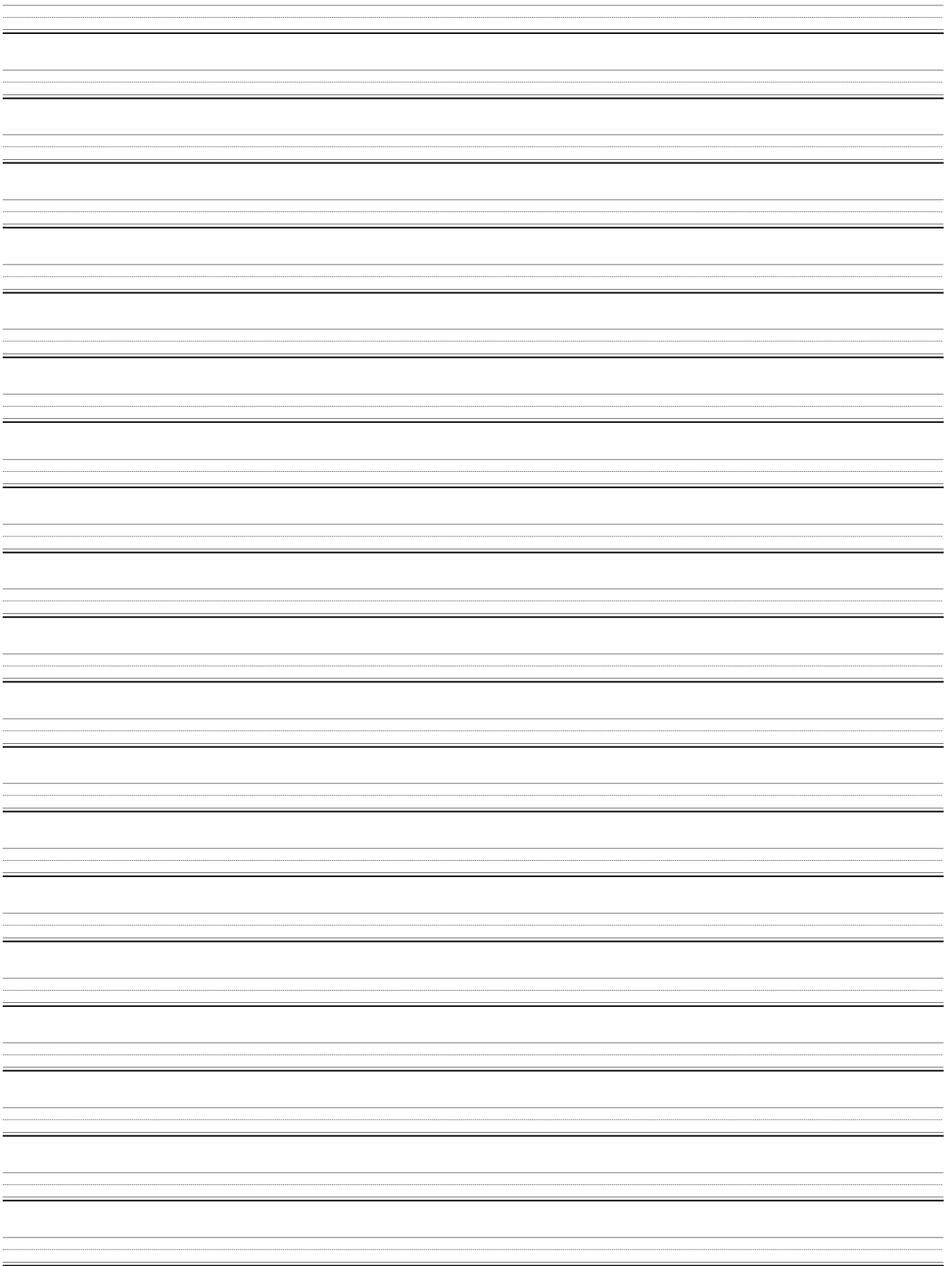
Difference Between Christian Prudence and Worldly Prudence

“Christian prudence consists in judging, speaking, and acting in the way that the Eternal Wisdom, clothed in our flesh, judged, spoke, and acted, and in guiding ourselves in all cases according to the maxims of faith, never according to the fallacious sentiments of the world, or the weak light of our own intellect.

Human prudence, which is also called the prudence of the flesh and of the world, is that which has no other aim than what is temporal, thinks only of arriving at its end, and makes use of such methods and sentiments alone as are human.” St. Vincent de Paul

Ingratitude

“Among all evils and sins, ingratitude, I speak under correction, is one of the things most worthy to be held in abomination in the sight of our Creator and Savior, and of creatures callable of His Divine and eternal glory.” St. Ignatius



The Spirit of the World Opposed to the Spirit of Christ

"Two loves have made two different cities: self-love hath made a terrestrial city, which rises in contempt of God; and Divine love hath made a celestial one, which rises in contempt of self; the former glories in itself, the latter in God." St. Augustine

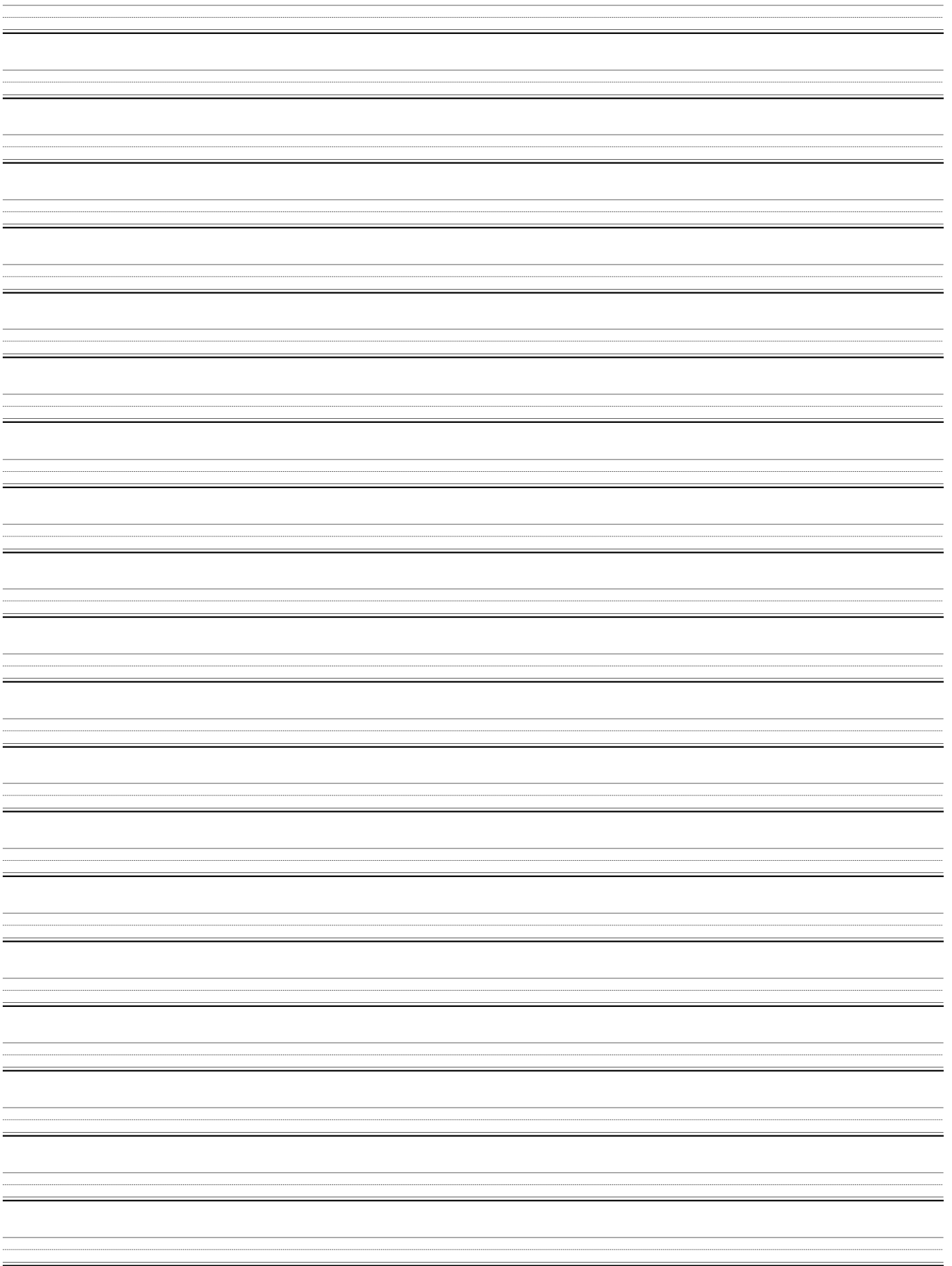
Vain-Glory

"Self-conceit, the desire of notice, the wish that others should speak of us, praise our management, and say that we are successful and work wonders—all this is an evil which makes us forget God, which poisons our holiest actions, and is most pernicious in hindering spiritual progress. I cannot understand how anyone who believes and holds it to be a matter of faith that "he who exalteth himself shall be humbled" can possibly speak to pass off for a holy person, for wise, watchful, and able." St. Vincent de Paul

Evils of Vain-Glory

"In the performance of good works, seek not the esteem of men, but seek only to please God. The eyes of men are like so many thieves who wish to rob you of the treasure of your merit." St. Aloysius

EVILS OF INCONSTANCY.



Evils of Inconstancy

"If a shrub is continually transplanted from place to place by a gardener, it will soon lose its natural vigor and wither; so, in like manner, our inconstancy leads to tepidity, weariness, relaxation of mind, and, by degrees, to the abandonment of all our exercises of piety."

St. Joseph Calasanctius

Order and Regularity

"There is a rule and order which is necessary in this life, a regularity which leads us to God, if we keep it faithfully. If we fail in this, we swerve from the path which conducts us to His heavenly kingdom; for all is beautiful where there is order, and the Apostle says:

"All order is from God."

St. Augustine

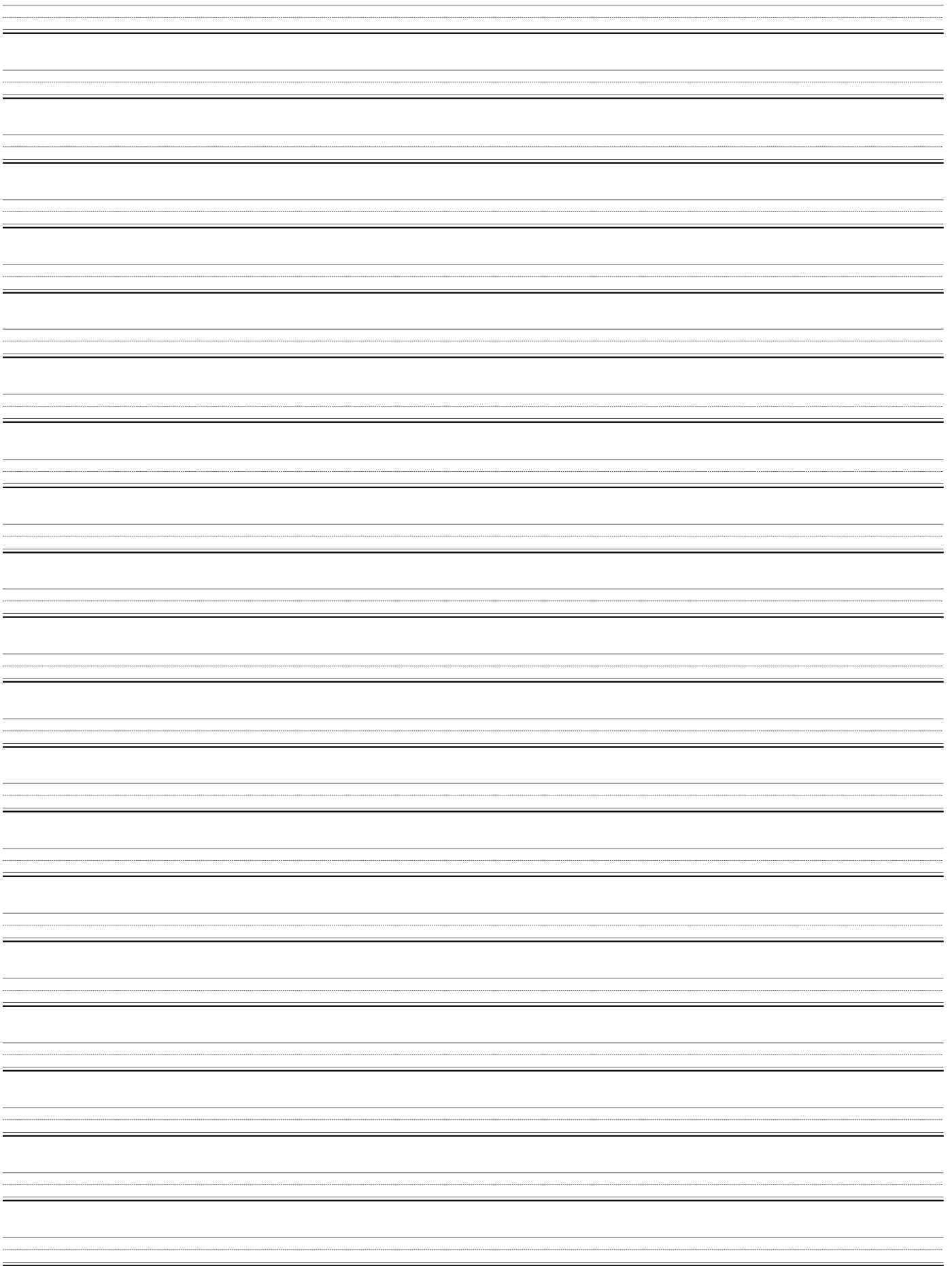
Thought of the Judgment

"It is to be feared that the angels, who are at present our guardians, will become our accusers at the day of judgment." St. Aloysius

Solid Virtue

"Let us apply our mind to the attainment of solid and perfect virtues, and learn to esteem these far more than human knowledge or any qualifications or gifts of nature, for those are interior endowments, and alone can impart worth to external gifts or acquirements."

St. Ignatius



Conformity to God's Will

"When we ask of God in good faith for the necessities of this life, He is as merciful when He does not hear as when He does hear us, for the physician knows better what is good for the sick man than the sick man himself." St. Augustine

Heaven

"And this will be the life of the saints, the occupation of those who are at peace; we shall give praise for all eternity. Not for one day only will our praise last; but as that day will not be a temporal day, so our praise will not have the end of a temporal day and we shall praise for ever and ever. Listen to the voice of Scripture speaking to God according to this our desire: "Blessed are they who dwell in Thy house, they shall praise Thee for ever and ever." Turning to God, let us pray to Him ourselves and all His people who are with us in the courts of His house. May He vouchsafe to keep and protect them, through Jesus Christ His Son our Lord, Who lives and reigns with Him for ever and ever. Amen." St. Augustine

