Other quotes from Mary Ward and others:

1. The Felicity of this course was a singular freedom from all that could make one adhere to earthly things, with an entire application and apt disposition to all good works. (Mary Ward’s ‘Vision of a Just Soul’ 1616.)

2. Let thy love be at all times rooted in God and then remain faithful to thy friend and value him highly, even more highly than thy life. (Mary Ward.)

3. In our calling a cheerful mind, a good understanding and a great desire after virtue are necessary, but of all these a cheerful mind is the most so. (Mary Ward)

4. Divine love is like a fire which will not let itself be shut up for it is impossible to love God and not to labour to extend his honor. (Mary Ward)

5. Cherish God’s vocation in you. Let it be constant, efficacious and loving. (Mary Ward)

6. Serve God with great love and liberty of mind (Mary Ward)

7. Work with great tranquillity, joy and magnanimity, for what is not done in one year can be done in another. (Mary Ward)


9. To love the poor, persevere in the same, to live die and rise with them, was all the aim of Mary Ward. (Taken from Mary Ward’s tomb stone, Jan 20th. 1645)

10. Love verity.. the verity of the Lord will last for ever… (Mary Ward)

11. At night, too, when I lie in my bed and rest in You, Oh God, tears of gratitude run down my face, and that is my prayer. .. Things come and go in a deeper rhythm and people must be taught to listen; it’s the most important thing we have to learn in this life. (Etty Hillesum:Westerbrook Concentration Camp)

12. When two human beings have to settle something and neither has then power to impose anything on the other, they have to come to an understanding. Here justice is consulted, for justice alone has the power to make two wills coincide. Simone Weil, ‘Waiting on God’ (Collins 1959)

13. May the God who dances in creation, who embraces us with human love, who shakes our lives with thunder, bless us and drive us out with power to fill the world with her justice. Janet Morley, ‘All desires Known’.

14. We are not powerless in the oppressive situations in which we feel caught. We are not bound to the reality we see. We are creators. We can make the new. Elizabeth O.Connor,’Cry Pain,Cry Hope’.
15. Walking the streets she pondered the poor and the workers and felt “that from then on my life was to be linked to theirs, their interests were to be mine: I had received a call, a vocation, a direction in my life.” Dorothy Day, ‘Love is the Measure’ by Jim Forest.

16. Lover calls out in compassion with a pleading yet lovely voice. It gathers the poor and the lame around itself and begs so intensely for the help of the Holy Spirit that this same love is able to bring everything to fulfilment through good works. Hildegard of Bingen (Fox, Book of divine Works.)

17. And in this he showed me something small, no bigger than a hazelnut, lying in the palm of my hand….In this little thing I saw three properties. The first is, that God made it, the second is that God loves it, the third is that God preserves it But what did I see in it? It is that God is the creator and the protector and the lover. Juliana of Norwich. ‘Showings’