

# We Must Go To God Out of Love<sup>1</sup>

St. Peter Julian Eymard to the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament  
Paris, Friday, August 3, 1860

Considering your duties and the sublime perfection required of Servants of the Most Blessed Sacrament and the frailty of your human nature, you may well wonder whether you can ever attain this perfection of the Servants of the Most Blessed Sacrament. Confronted with a lofty mountain that rises to the sky, you may ponder that since your pace is ever so slow you may also need wings. **Let me teach you how to go forward, so that your experience will show you that I have told you the truth.** It is not enough for a Servant of the Blessed Sacrament to be growing in perfection; she must be already perfect. One in training is not sent into the service of a king; he must be already trained. A Servant must come into the service only once her conversion is fully in place. She must then come with all the virtues needed to begin the honor of service. Only fully trained persons are chosen for the service of a king.

How is this possible? There is a secret, a particular grace. In other religious Orders the process is very long, the Carthusians require five years. Since their tasks vary every fifteen minutes, why are five years needed? First the will must be broken, time is needed to grind the wheat. Other Orders also take a long time, human nature must be put to work and pass through diverse stages. Although this is difficult, there is no other way since this is the specific grace of the Order. As a result, among the Carthusians out of twenty novices perhaps only one will stay; among the Trappists, only two or three out of a hundred. The larger Orders will normally send away anyone who becomes ill two or three times.

This will not occur in our Congregation. **We begin by teaching you that the core of your education must be love. So there is no need to fear. You already have what's needed, since you do love the Good Lord.** Who drew you here? Neither I nor your sisters invited you. These have nothing to give you; no one is a foundation stone. You came because you love our Lord. His love led you to leave everything behind; now it is time to leave yourselves behind, this will be your task. To understand this, see how a mother goes about training her child. She develops in that child the family spirit through love. Love is the source of this inspiration.

**This education by love** is greater than what people can give. It flows from the power of God. Notice how our Lord needed thirty-three years to teach us the way, although God needed only one word, *Fiat*, to create a human being, the most perfect of his creatures. God does not crown his creatures, but first he sanctifies the work of humans, and then crowns them later. So that humans might be one with him, our Lord started by seeking our love. He gives his spirit, and unknowingly we are transformed into him.<sup>2</sup> Two persons who love each other with passion, united in preferential love, will soon find their hearts poured into each other; they soon become one. If natural love disposes hearts for such marvels, *a fortiori* the love of God.

**Your perfection consists in your love for the Blessed Sacrament**, since perfection depends on love. If your love is slight, then your perfection will be hard to come by. Your love must be generous. If you love a lot, perfection will come quickly. A bit of cold iron is hard to mold, but put into fire it becomes malleable, softens, and becomes like fire. If your perfection consists in putting on the virtues of Jesus Christ, this will be a long process. But if you throw yourself into love, you will put on his spirit without effort. This is how great souls are formed.

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<sup>1</sup> Number 242. *Il faut aller à Dieu par l'amour.*

<sup>2</sup> Copy A: variant: into him *by love*.

A lifetime would not suffice to gain even one degree of virtue, and you would need a thousand years to acquire all of them. It's impossible to embrace them all. If you proceed through the heart, you will find everything in love. Let Jesus Christ inspire you. **What does it mean to be inspired by Jesus Christ?**<sup>3</sup> He becomes the principle of my thoughts, of my life. Jesus is the light of every person, because he guides our judgments and choices. What does Jesus Christ will or wish? The inspiration of love was the starting point of the saints. A selfish inspiration asks what will be the best for me, such is the ego.

If the thought of God's love is the prime mover, my whole life will be inspired from above. With this inspiration, you will become wiser and more prudent. *God is love, and anyone who lives in love lives in God, and God lives in him.* [1 Jn 4:16] If you give yourself to God, God will be your guide. The inspiration you receive will equal your love for God. To allow oneself to be led by those who are ignorant or who are slaves to the mean passions of the heart, leads to bad choices. The fruit of an action flows from its beginning. A bad start leads to trouble along the way.

What is it that inspires a child or a friend? First one inquires and looks around. A child finds its inspiration in its mother, a friend in the friend, a Christian finds inspiration in Jesus Christ. God speaks and enlightens him, the interior language is clearer than any other. Our Lord says, *Peter do you love me?* (cf. Jn 21:15) First Jesus requires an act of love, then he sends him out to work, he needs nothing else. It's important that love inspire all your work, but this is still not enough.

**During this retreat, seek light and strength, these two principles.** Lowly souls work for their own interest. We tell them: Look how beautiful heaven will be. They seek for reward; the ego is working. We invite them to do penance: Since you committed many sins, you will pay for them in purgatory. We struggle between sin and justice; again it is the ego at work. To another we say, You are really imperfect; you are gaining nothing, and you are losing what you have; what will happen to your salvation? Then she starts working like a farmer plowing a field with a spade – what a long process! These are souls working for their own interest, for their own salvation. But we say to others: Our Lord Jesus Christ loved you very much, searching for you from afar, even at the gates of hell, drawing you out in his mercy. You should love him very much.

He gives you enough graces to convert the whole world, treating you as if you had never offended him. You receive so much from him, that you must make the angels and saints jealous.

**What will you do? Because he loves me so much, by the same principle I will return his love.** I understand now. By forgetting self, the soul sees only the love given. Such a one loves in return and is lifted up by the Good Lord's support. She grows as she rises towards God. Not only does she walk, she wants to fly, insisting always on the most perfect way. She no longer expects a little crown, as she says: This is not for me, but for our Lord. He will be crowned and pleased, while I remain at his feet. You will progress rapidly. His love has done so much; with so many sacrifices he has loved me greatly. I too must sacrifice myself, and give myself. This is nothing in comparison to all he did in his passion, in his sacrifices, in his Eucharist. I cannot number his gifts. What are my sacrifices compared to his? But my will and my heart have grown... My soul is not concerned about itself. It does not place its hand on its heart to check how much it suffers.

**Take note of Saint Paul.** *He loved me and sacrificed himself for my sake* (cf. Gal 2:20), and he cries. *Even though I used to be a blasphemer and did all I could to injure and discredit the faith, mercy was shown me;* (cf. 1 Tim 1:13) *I am the least of the apostles; in fact since I persecuted the Church of God, I hardly deserve the name of apostle;* (cf. 1 Co 15:8) *what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners* (cf. Rm 5:8-9). He challenges the power of hell to separate him from the love

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<sup>3</sup> Copy A: What does it mean to be inspired by Jesus Christ?

of Jesus Christ. He faced perils, death, the sword and all you can think of. All this is nothing, for we are saved by Jesus Christ who loved us. (cf. Rm 8:35-39)

**There is power in love.** We measure the power of a gun by its size and its explosive powder. Only one thing is necessary: increase the love of God within and go forward. When a ship is launched, it is equipped with a powerful engine, so that it seems to fly. Some may drag their bodies in God's service, while others fly like eagles, no longer conscious of their body.

**When you want to do great things, make an act of love.** To learn how to suffer, penance is not sufficient. There are times when human nature is cast down and falls asleep. I have enough. (cf. 1 Kgs 19:4) What should we do? Take your nasty nature and place it into a chariot of fire, the fire takes over and saves it. Put it into the chariot of Elijah. (cf. 2 Kgs 2:11). I was thinking, How come the idea of heaven has so little influence? People find themselves in the presence of pleasure and ambitions, heaven seems too far away. They feel more attracted by the pleasures of the moment. If we talk about hell, they are not afraid, about motives for their salvation, they are not moved. However, when they begin to love the Good Lord, everything changes. This is no longer something future because love is now and always rewarding. If in one year I accomplish with love what I might have done in forty years, this is a good year. God is so good!

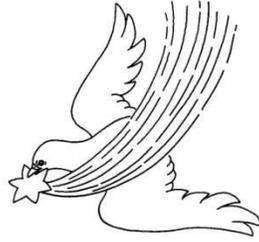
**Love is stronger than death!** (cf. Ct 8:6) One who loves will not fear death or sacrifices. If you want to be heroes, then go to Calvary. Love shares any condition and sacrifice, and brings about union. More than that, love becomes a power and inspiration. It also leads to rest, for rest must necessarily be its reward. If you look for something else, you'll find nothing. If you seek rest elsewhere, you will not find it. If you strive for virtues to attain perfection, that perfection will never be stable. In your desire for success, you will experience trials but never total success. When you long to pray well, with your entire soul, only to be self-satisfied and to rest in this accomplishment, the Good Lord will not permit you to reap such a harvest. We must not be the end-all of our own good deeds. If, however, God is the underlying principle of all our good deeds, God becomes both their goal and reward that will never be taken away from us.

As soon as you have accomplished an act of love everything has been done. There is no need to know if one has done well or badly, if the flower of love has borne fruit. Since you have sought and fulfilled God's holy will, you will be rewarded. Have no fear. *God is love and anyone who lives in love lives in God and God lives in him.* [1 Jn 4:16]

Consider this analogy. A king commands his son to lead the royal army into battle, never to return until victory has been achieved. The son goes into combat, suffering much trouble and weariness, until the battle is won. Then he returns home. The king will congratulate him and embrace him, but does he owe his son anything? The son has merely done his duty out of filial piety. His reward is the glory of his father. Nothing else matters. Whatever is below the dignity of his father is unworthy of him. [...]

**My Daughters, do you want to be happy? Be inspired by love.** If you come to tell me, I am discouraged, I will answer: why have you broken the commitment between God and you? Why? The Good Lord must now be content with your small change. You no longer know how to please him. Put your head down (in shame) you wanted some small savings for yourself. This is not nice. – Is this what I want?

To ask for forgiveness is humiliating, but necessary. How foolish it is to want progress for oneself! When the devil is tempting you and you would like to complain, make an act of love of God. Dissatisfaction is like self-love rising up, as a snail shows its horns when no one is looking. Never be a snail; be an eagle.



**Point for reflection:**

Love should always be purified, improved. What do you think about the challenge given to us by our Founder in this instruction?