

(From Mo. Marguerite Guillot Conferences to the Novices)

ADVICE FOR THE INTERIOR LIFE - November 1866

My dear daughters, there is one subject on which I often return to, because it appears to me to be of great importance for your souls. You have perhaps guessed that I wish to speak of purity of intention. Yes, I desire again to recommend to you to act purely for our Lord in all that you do without seeking any satisfaction on the part of creatures, whoever they may be, without desiring their esteem, their affection, their approval. How mistaken you would be to act otherwise. You would be giving yourselves much trouble and losing your time, because you would be gaining no merit. What a misfortune! How sad it would be, actually, all you do were to be lost! You endure great fatigue, you get up at night, you do many very difficult things that many others would not do, and if you did not act through a very pure intention, uniquely to please God, for our Lord, with great spirit of faith, all that would serve for nothing and would not merit the slightest reward.

In order not to store up in a pierced sack, may the glory and love of our Lord be the sole motive of all your actions, to maintain this intention in yourself, keep in mind that thought of the presence of God. He is everywhere, He sees you at every instant and in every place, and he penetrates your most secret intentions. Then you will act solely for Him. You will not be able to take from Him or offer to others the homage of what you are doing; you will fulfill the duty of your vocation, for are you not held by vocation to give to Our Lord all the glory that you can? Are you not obliged to make Him the gift of yourselves, -heart, mind, will, body – by all the acts of your life, adoration is nothing else than homage of one's whole being.

May this offering of yourselves be entire – without restriction, without limit. Renew it continually by working for God alone.

Purity of intention will render your obedience more meritorious and easier. Seeking only our Lord, you will obey Him with the spirit of faith which enables you to see God alone in the person of the Superiors you will have; you will think only of the grace or their office, without stopping to consider their qualities and faults, their talents or their incapacity.

If you were deeply impressed with this truth, that it is Jesus Himself Who commands you in the person of your Superior, how prompt your obedience would be! You would not hesitate to submit your judgment. It is because you lack purity of intention that you let yourselves slip so easily into complaining about those who command you, into examining the timeliness of their orders, or even to criticize what they do, instead of seeing only our Lord in all

things, and seeking only His service, you stop at the level of self-interest and you commit real faults.

On the contrary, purity of intention, the spirit of faith, the thought of the presence of God will help you to practice the religious virtues which a Servant of the Blessed Sacrament should possess to fulfill her angelic vocation and to lead the interior life, the life of silence, the life of recollection; without which you will never be true adorers. Renew your resolution to practice these virtues; then grace will not be sterile in you. On the contrary, much fruit will come from it and our Lord will be able to communicate Himself fully to you.
