

(From Mo. Marguerite Guillot Conferences to the Novices)

DETACHMENT – 1866

Today is the day of our monthly retreat; let us profit well from this retreat which prepares us for death. Let us understand that since we shall die one day, we will prepare ourselves for death by detaching ourselves, by giving up something every day – some of you are duty-bound to do this because you have made your vows; others must do so to prepare themselves to take these same vows.

I do not tell you to diminish the furnishings in your cell; thanks be to God, there is nothing more than what is necessary; but I tell you to check through your personal belongings to see if you cannot find some objects on which our Lord demands the sacrifice, be it only a pin. Believe me, my good daughters; all these small detachments aid the interior life. You may be thinking: *“Ah, well, let them take away from me all that they want!”* No, that is not the attitude to take; it is you yourselves who, after having searched to see if there was anything to which you were inordinately attached, should understand that you must sacrifice it and bring it to me when you come for direction.

When you have something to ask, a permission to obtain, go straight to the point quite simply. When you receive an observation, accept it always with humility, gentleness and gratitude. This is an act of virtue, an act of love that our Lord blesses and which draws upon your soul His graces and His good pleasure. The religious life gives you the means of multiplying these acts of virtue. Have you ever understood that sufficiently? It is undoubtedly because you do not think of it enough that you are not entirely God’s and it is mere trifles which hold you back; a little idol, a preoccupation of self-love, a desire for vain glory, and why not! Also, I have seen too often how you dread humiliations, and how observations displease you. Some take on an air of haughtiness, and keep a disdainful silence; others sulk and assume an air of ill humor. Humility and simplicity suffer terribly from these things which are intolerable in Communities! Be very convinced that if you do not work to die to self by renouncing yourselves in every way, our Lord will not do in you what He could if you had the will and generosity to create empty space in yourselves so that He could fill it with Himself.

Therefore accept corrections as they should be accepted by religious, with humility.

If the word *“sacrifice”* and *“renunciation”* frightens you, replace them with the word *“love”* and try to make many of these acts of love every day, in order to place them at the feet of our Lord during your adoration.
