

*(From Mo. Marguerite Guillot Conferences to the Novices)*

## **DEVOTEDNESS AND PURITY OF INTENTION – Sept 1884**

My dear daughters, to the occupation of Mary we must join the devotedness of Martha. We have to give ourselves to the direct Service of our Lord, – adoration, office, concern for worship, before everything else, and then to His indirect service in the house according to what is demanded of each one of us by obedience. To fail in this devotedness under its forms would be to fail in our duty, and I will not cease to remind you of this obligation.

From the very beginning of the Society, the first Servants understood it and left you admirable example of their love for the royal service and of generosity for the Congregation. Everything needed to be done, - in Paris first of all, then in *Angers*, and our first Sisters worked without fear of fatigue. Can you not do as they did, at least in a small measure?

Do then, all that your strength will permit you to do; do not ask too easily for dispensation either from the exercises or from the employments. When you feel that your strength is failing, pray to our Lord and ask Him to support you; count on Him with confidence and you will see that His grace will sustain you. And when you are thinking of asking a dispensation, examine carefully, in His presence, if this dispensation, is truly necessary. Love of our Lord and of the Congregation ought to inspire us with total devotedness.

My dear daughters have courage, work generously; it is for our Lord. You will be very happy one day when you will be at the end of your life, to be able to say on your own behalf that you have done all that you could. On the contrary, what regrets you will have if you have been lax and lazy!

Do not lose time then. One loses time not only by doing nothing, but by doing work negligently or by taking more time for it than is necessary.

But it would not be enough to work, even with devotedness, if you did it only as a duty; it is necessary to work for love of our Lord, to do all out of love, without giving into the difficulties, the obstacles, the struggles you have to bear. Do not be frightened by these struggles and difficulties which may perhaps last during your whole life; go on from day to day, counting on the grace of our Lord and strengthened by His love.

This grace will be given you a day by day and thus you will be able to make an ample provision of merit, by acting with great purity of intention, with the thought of working solely for our Lord, and for His love.

Ah, dear daughtesr, purity of intention! It is that which makes the soul pleasing to God; it is that which gives merit to our actions and permits us to acquire great treasures for heaven, while when it is lacking, we work in vain, and we store up in a pierced sack.

Remember these few thoughts and do not be afraid to give yourselves generously to all that our Lord will demand of you.

\*\*\*\*\*