

(From Mo. Marguerite Guillot Conferences to the Novices)

ON FIDELITY TO THE SPIRIT OF THE SOCIETY AND RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE – October 1866

How grateful we ought to be toward God for having called us to a vocation as beautiful as ours! Does it not seem that He should have chosen pure and holy souls to surround His Eucharistic throne day and night?

One would say, on the contrary, that He delights in calling near Him what is most miserable, most ignorant, the poorest, the weakest, for in examining ourselves individually, what do we find in ourselves that can justify such a call?

Our Lord, in choosing us, wished to show that He alone would act in our Society, and that creatures would have no part therein.

Furthermore, it is a very great grace for us to live under the direction of our Venerated Father; let us adopt his spirit which will be the spirit of the Society until the end of time. Those who will come later on must receive it from us, so we ought to make every effort to become penetrated with the spirit of our vocation, so that by our example, those who will come after us may, in their turn, understand it and become imbued with it.

In order to understand well the spirit of our vocation, we have only to observe faithfully our Rule, this Rule which our Venerated Father gave us and which God inspired him; it is the Rule proper to the Eucharistic vocation, adapted to the purpose of our vocation which is different from all others. Moreover, in order to compose it, our Venerated Father did not take anything from existing Rules. All those who have seen our Rule say that it has been inspired by God Himself. Referring to it, Mgr. Angebault said to me: *“This Rule is delightful; it is a bouquet.”*

What then is the spirit that we must have? Listen to our Venerated Father who explained the first chapter of the Constitutions in this way:

“Love of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Blessed Sacrament of the Eucharist will be the distinctive mark, the characteristic spirit of the Congregation, the center and inspiration of its whole life.”

It is then love of Jesus Hostia which must be the motivating power of our whole life and the inspiration of all our acts, exterior and interior; and if a Sister needed another motive for practicing the Rule and the religious virtues, I would say that this Sister is not a true Servant. In other Communities, we can spur souls on by different means; here love of Jesus Christ must obtain everything from us.

In a life which is silent, hidden, and annihilated, the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament must immolate herself continually under the gaze of Jesus and for Him alone, for His love, without any seeking of personal interest. The glory of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and His royal service, these are the sole preoccupations of her mind, the sole desires of her heart.

We know very well that Our Lord is not yet served royally as he should be, and that grieves us for our desire is to surround Him with all that is rich and beautiful, and to offer Him the most solemn cult possible. That will come later; we are only beginning. But if the exterior cult leaves something to be desired, in spite of our best, we can nevertheless give our Good Master a very perfect interior cult by our regularity, our fidelity, our fervor in our Eucharistic service.

May this divine Service be our dominant thought and let us make of our lives a continual preparation for adoration, and the best means is the practice of recollection.

Recollection is the soul of the life of an adorer; it is recollection that will make us find happiness in the Service of our Lord. That is why I repeat so often to guard your eyes, and to watch over your senses in order not to let yourselves be distracted by exterior things. If you did what I recommend to you, if you observed silence well, how many distractions you would avoid at adoration, and how easy it would be for you to pray.

How I would like to see you become well imbued with the religious spirit, the spirit of your holy vocation!

Here, we need souls that are generous, energetic, dead to self, and concerned only with the glory and Service of our Lord; souls faithful to practice all that the religious life demands. When, then, will you be such souls?
