

(From Mo. Marguerite Guillot Conferences to the Novices)

ON OBEDIENCE – July 11, 1866

You have heard it said that obedience is the trade of religious. Oh my sisters, what a good trade it is, but it is necessary to earn it, for all trades demand an apprenticeship, and often a very hard one, we shall then have difficulty in learning to become obedient. Let us bring to our study all the good will of which we are capable, and God will help us.

Nothing is as necessary as obedience in the religious life for this life rests entirely on obedience; but we must understand that obedience is often a cause of suffering.

We suffer in renouncing our will, our judgment, our tastes, etc. and the imagination itself augments these suffering by magnifying the sacrifices asked by obedience.

Learn then to obey well which is difficult; to obtain this ask for this grace *from our Lord in all your adorations.*

There are three kinds of obedience but only filial obedience, the obedience of love should be ours. It is the obedience which acts only to please God and to make His Divine will reign. Ask yourselves if you have this obedience and if your life is the expression of the will of God. It is by the voice of your Superiors that you will know this will of God. And how do you obey your Superiors? An obedient religious does all that her Superiors tell her to do and do nothing unknown to them. You recall this incident in the life of St. Theresa; our Lord had told the saint to do something that her confessor, on being consulted, forbade. St. Theresa obeyed the latter saying that, by following the revelation, she could be mistaken while by obeying her confessor she was sure of being in the right; and our Lord later approved her conduct.

You ought to obey your Superior, whoever she may be and whatever faults or incapacity you believe you see in her, and consider only the will of God that she transmits to you.

Obedience well practiced becomes the surest road to arrive at perfection; it is not only the foundation of the religious life, but is also giving to the least actions, even the lowliest, a great value that assures us immense merits.
