

(From Mo. Marguerite Guillot Conferences to the Novices)

ON THE SPIRIT OF OUR VOCATION (Foundation) 1883

I have an announcement for you, my dear daughters; a small group of Servants from Angers is going to proceed to Lyons and another group to Paris. Be happy, my children, to go to procure the glory of our Lord. If you all remained here, the Devine Master would not be able to have a throne in Lyons or Paris, for He needs His little Servants around His throne to adore Him and serve Him. You are leaving Angers, but it is to take up the same life in Lyons or in Paris. Thus, the only thing you have to ask is: "Will there be a monstrance where I am being sent?" "Yes." Then nothing else matters.

Now let us speak a little about the spirit of our dear vocation. Each institute has its own spirit which is proper to it and which comes from its Founder.

Our spirit is not that of St. Vincent de Paul, neither of St. Benedict nor of Carmel: it is the spirit of the Eucharistic vocation, a spirit of love and of adoration for our Lord present in the Blessed Sacrament. Everything in our lives is animated by this thought: adoration, love, the service of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament; everything is meant to aid us, to prepare us for this life of adoration. Our desire must be to do everything to become true adorers, good servants, and faithful spouse of Jesus Christ.

Our work to acquire the virtues should be inspired only by the need of being always better prepared to appear before Him; our daily study must tend only to make us know Our Lord better in order to love Him more perfectly and to unite ourselves more intimately to Him.

Our Venerated Father planned all our exercises, the schedule of our lives, in such a way as to favor everything that preserves, develops and guards this spirit of adoration. Consequently our duty is to apply ourselves to it with all our strength, with all the love of which we are capable, and in the Novitiate my children, we do not teach you anything else. Elsewhere, one learns how to care for the sick, or to teach children; here we tell you to study Our Lord, to strive continually to live more and more for Him and in Him, to serve Him by the gift of your whole being.

Then, you have only to give yourself to adoration and to the direct and indirect service of the Divine King. You do not have exterior works which take up your time/ your activity; everything is here for Our Lord. What a vocation! My dear daughters, how great it is!

We are here in the Cenacle while awaiting heaven, and we are doing now what we shall do eternally.

How could Our Lord have chosen us, we who are poor children, who know nothing, who are nothing, who can do nothing? He has chosen us because He has loved us. He has chosen nonentities, in order the better to show forth His bounty, His mercy and His love.

But in order to respond to this choice, to respond to so much love, we must give ourselves entirely to Our Lord by dying to ourselves, by immolating ourselves continually through love; then, we will be in the spirit of our vocation, and the Good Master will find His delight in us.

You see that the spirit of our vocation can be summed up in these two words: love and sacrifice. Impress this thought well upon your minds and you will arrive at the spirit of adoration which must occupy your whole life wherever you may be.

Some of you are going to go to Lyons; it is there that Our Father lived for several years, and where he suffered so much for the foundation of his society; others are going to Paris which has been the cradle of the Society and where he initiated your poor mother in this spirit which she is passing on to you.

As a Mother who give a recommendations to her child who is about to leave her, I tell you also: "Remember my advice; observe your Rule and guard faithfully the spirit of your vocation, the spirit of your Father. Do not forget that you have just made your retreat; bring to your Sisters the edification, the joy, the good odor of Jesus Christ." Tell them that their Sisters in the Mother-House are one with them in heart and soul.

One more word, my children, your first Sisters have joined to their love for our Lord, to their devotion for His service, the most filial devotion for our dear Congregation. Nothing cost them too much to prove how much they loved it, neither work nor fatigue. Imitate them, follow their example, love the Congregation like a Mother whose interests are dear to you. Are you not her children and must you not share wholeheartedly in all the crosses and trials that God sends her? They are great at this moment and the measure seems to be full, but we must remember that Our Lord tries us in this way only because He loves us. We shall be happy one day to have suffered for our dear Congregation, and as true spouses of Jesus Christ. Let us understand that sufferings are graces; let us accept them with happiness, thanking Our Lord for treating us as His friends. Certainly, the trial which strikes the Congregation is very heavy, and it is hard for me to see you endure all the privations that our actual poverty imposes on us, but this trial is only for a time, my children, and it is gaining inestimable graces for each one of you, in particular, and for the Congregation in general.

When you will suffer too much, cast a glance at Our Lord from whom all these good things come, and take courage.

If you listen to my advice, not only will you be happy but you will advance rapidly in perfection. Just as a tree planted near the water does not cease to grow, thanks to its influence, so too your soul will grow in virtue under the dew of these graces. If, on the contrary, you do not profit from the abundant graces that the cross actually procures for the Congregation, you will be unworthy to remain in the Eucharistic Cenacle.

May this life of sacrifices, of privations, of fatigue, accepted out of love, prepare you first of all for your vows, and then to hear on the last day the gentle word of the beloved: *“Come, my spouse, come and continue to enjoy in heaven the life of adoration and of love that you have begun on earth.”*
