

(From Mo. Marguerite Guillot Conferences to the Novices)

PURITY OF INTENTION – October 1866

Next Sunday, dear Sisters, is the Feast of the Purity of Mary. Mary is our Mother and our Model, for we are called to do what she did and to do it well we must study her life, her virtues, ever trying to walk in her footsteps. What was admirable in Mary was her purity, not only the purity of her heart, of her life, but that purity of intention which made her act only for God. Her glance was directed only toward God and her actions had for their sole end only the glory of God. Is that not what the Servant of the Blessed Sacrament should imitate?

How I would like to make you understand the necessity of this purity of intention which consist in working only for the glory of God, for the accomplishment of His will, and seeking nothing for yourselves. And do not fear that this disinterestedness will be harmful to your salvation; be assured, on the contrary, that our Lord will watch with more solicitude and love over you when you will have forgotten yourselves for Him.

Work, then, to purify your intentions; do nothing to attract the notice or esteem of creatures. Besides, you know my poor daughters, that to work for such a purpose would be to risk losing the fruit of all your labors; it means preparing oneself to have done a great deal. Work out of love and to prove your love for our Lord, desiring only what He wants and what is pleasing to Him.

To purity of intention join fidelity to grace, that is to say, attention to that small voice which does not cease to speak to you interiorly, to ask you the sacrifice of a word, of a glance, of a satisfaction, or to incline you to practice certain mortifications, to accomplish promptly a certain act of obedience, of humility, etc.

Keep yourselves recollected in such a way as to always hear this interior voice, and if you are generous enough to do all that it asks of you, you will win the heart of our Lord and become worthy of receiving ever greater graces; for fidelity to grace draws new graces.

Do not be like those who are afraid, to hear His voice, lest it asks too many sacrifices of them; profit, on the contrary, from all the opportunities you discover to practice virtue and by this fidelity, you will profitably use all the graces our Lord sends you.

I repeat; be faithful to grace, continually purify your intention, like the saints whose practice of virtue was only a means of glorifying God, providing their love to Him, and imitating our Lord by carrying their cross in His footsteps.

The saints did not all do outstanding things, but what they did was done as perfectly as possible and for the love of God. We are called to life of recollection and silence. Can we not in our life of recollection do what many of the Saints succeeded in doing in the midst of the bustle and cares of the world, by acting, like them, purely for love of God? God rewarded their purity in intention and He will reward ours.
