

(From Mo. Marguerite Guillot Conferences to the Novices)

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE RECREATIONS – March 16, 1866

Personality differences are found everywhere and they always furnish occasions to practice charity. We are fifteen here and I assure you there are no two similar personalities. Well then, charity must unite them all in the most perfect unity.

Just as in a garden, it is the variety of plants, with their individual beauty, characteristics and utility which makes up the beauty of the garden, likewise in a community, the variety of persons with their qualities and differences blend in charity to become one in heart.

To achieve that, you must bear with one another, for there will always be something to bear, just as there will always be occasions to suffer. You could all be saints, but you would still have to practice charity either in the employments where you find yourselves with persons who may be completely different from you or in the contacts of community life and inevitable conflicts that are encountered there.

But it is especially the recreations that these things happen. A Sister may say a word which wounds you; in such a case, tell yourself that she did not do it intentionally. If you had solid virtue, you would not even let us notice that you were hurt, nor that you were offended.

There are occasions when charity must be practiced by withholding judgment and giving the benefit of the doubt to the one who has been thoughtless. These occasions are more frequent during recreation because each one gives way to her nature more easily; opposite character traits become evident more quickly and recreation becomes a *“battle field”*

It is imperative that you come to the recreations with a spirit of charity, of mutual support; you must be polite, amiable and obliging towards one another. Watch especially to practice charity towards all your Sisters without distinction or preference. I repeat again the words of St. John: *“Love one another.”*

You have a share in the same graces, you are in the service of the same Master, you must love one another as Sisters and avoid everything which could cause sorrow: you will thus have many occasions to practice humility, charity, mutual support and therefore many means of offering our Lord your acts of virtue.
