

(From Mo. Marguerite Guillot Conferences to the Novices)

THE NOVITIATE IS A TIME OF GRACE – March 9, 1866

A month ago I was telling you that you should take advantage of the graces that you receive and assuredly God grants them to you in abundance.

How much enlightenment, counsel, advice is given to you in general and in private to instruct you in the duties of the religious life and facilitate its practice. It is up to you to examine how much profit you have drawn from them, and what attitudes you have before the sacrifices that our Lord asks of you, and the virtues you need to practice in order to act with ever more generosity and love.

There is an improvement in the observance of silence; that is understandable after all that has been said to you on that subject, and it is not too soon for you to start practicing it seriously. There is also less noise in walking and in the cells, but there is still more work to be done on the point.

The Novitiate is a time of grace during which you prepare yourselves in order to be able to serve and glorify the good Master afterwards by the practice of the virtues; it is a time of spiritual help during which you must make provisions for the future. Later on, you may have employments or charges which will absorb you and you must be able to meet these situations, thanks to the provisions you are now making.

I recommend you to the prayers of all, for the future depend on the Novitiate; if it has been good, that person is good religious all her life.

And we desire only that; to help you become good religious, good Servants of the Blessed Sacrament.
