

Have a Genuine Love for Each Other^{1/2}

St. Peter Julian Eymard to the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament,
Nemours, Saturday, November 10, 1866

[...]

Have a genuine love for each other in our Lord. You are sisters, even more than in your families. Charity in our Lord is a bond stronger than blood. Love one another sincerely, then. I hope this retreat helped you a little. Realize clearly that if you have fraternal charity, then you will love one another. Never commit any deliberate sins; people must be able to say of you what our Lord said of his apostles: Here, they love each other in God. And believe me, my poor children, be strict in examining yourselves on charity, because failures occasion many faults. Think about what our Lord said: *You will love me if you love one another* (cf. Jn 13:35). And St. John says: *Whoever loves his brothers fulfills all the commandments* (cf. 1 Jn 4:12), because it is impossible to be charitable without being humble and kind.

I'm happy that I came to see you, to spend a few days with you. This good little house has had much to suffer; that's a proof that the Good Lord wants it, since foundations are established only through suffering. Pray also for Miss Sterlingue, who suffered much and feels better now. She wants to benefit from the retreat. And now, my good Daughters, be generous in your service of God, in your examens, and in your adorations. Remember that self-love tries to enter everywhere. I know that you are generous, and I like the direction of your mother because she is direct, and so am I. When you are told: Stop. Then do so. Please, have a little faith and obedience. – But I am bored. – That's self-love. Talking about it will ease the pain. – Go in peace; things are going better.

In Paris I have the misfortune to have a few Fathers, and especially Brothers, who always have something to say. I listen to them out of charity, and then I tell them: I understand, you may leave now. And they don't move. As superior, I tell them: Go in peace, I forgive you. And at the door, they hesitate and say: Father, may I still say something. And I say to them: Have you lost your mind? Now, my good Daughters, follow carefully everything I told you.

❖ N.B. The beginning of this instruction is found in Book # 4, Section B



Point for reflection:

“Impossible to be charitable without being humble and kind.” Is this verified in your experience? How?

¹ Number 620. *Méthode pour l'adoration*. [Method for adoration.]

² This text is advice which was given after the instruction of November 10, 1866.