

(From Mo. Marguerite Guillot Conferences to the Novices)

BEARING SMALL VEXATIONS – MODESTY – RELIGIOUS POLITENESS AND MUTUAL RESPECT – JULY 2, 1866

Summer is here and you are all suffering from the heat; in the Chapel you are very warm, equally so in employments and even at your meals you are uncomfortable. You cannot escape from this problem, so make virtue out of necessity by supporting the heat for the love of God, with patience and without complaining; offer our Lord all your discomfort and you will acquire merit.

It is now the time for labor, profit by it. One day you will have a reward for what you have done, for we reap according to the measure of our work, and the more abundant the harvest will be, the greater our glory will be in heaven; but let us work especially with the intention of doing the will of God and to please Him. That is the most perfect motive and as we are Servants, we must not forget that a Servant must have no other desire than to please her Master.

Accept in the same manner, the petty vexations of daily life which present themselves in your relationships with your Sisters, by contact with the different personalities and with the defects of each one. If you see everything in God, you will easily support these annoyances which will become so many occasions to practice virtue.

I told the postulants that, until Sunday, they are permitted to look around them to become familiar with what they must do, but that afterwards they must lower their eyes.

What is painful to me, my Sisters, is to have to tell you also to lower your eyes. How can you be so careless about observing control over your eyes, you who have been in the Community for a considerable length of time? The eyes are the doors of the soul and if you keep these doors open to the four winds, that is to say everywhere, you will never be recollected, and necessarily, at adoration, during the Office, your mind will be filled with distractions. Yes, certainly if you were more controlled you would be less distracted. Why must you be glancing around in the refectory? Do not let your attention wander about in this manner. In the religious life there is no need to examine others; we need only examine ourselves. Try then to become good religious exteriorly by a serious demeanor, a dignified bearing, and modesty just as you must become so interiorly through submission, humility, charity.

In, general, my dear Sisters, you do not have enough respect among yourselves. There is too much familiarity, too much free and easy behavior in your mutual relations. How many

corrections and how many recommendations our Father gave us on the subject of mutual respect and what examples he showed us! He wants a family spirit to reign among you, but that of a well brought up family in which all the children respect their parents and in which the younger children respect their older ones.

Moreover, you must love one another as Sisters. Love one another mutually by supporting one another out of charity; without taking offence and being hurt by trifles. Why it is that religious are so touchy? I think it comes from the fact that in the religious life the same persons are always together. In the world, if someone insult or ridicules us, the numerous occupations that absorb us make us forget it and we are not disturbed by it; but in the religious life the least sorrow, the least unpleasant word weighs on the heart and keeps returning to the mind. This causes ill-feelings which are then revived at the least provocation.

Place yourselves at the foot of the Monstrance with the Sister who inspires these sentiments in you, and you will see that this Sister has a soul redeemed by the blood of our Lord. You will remember that she is His servant, His spouse or that she will become one, and your sentiments for her will change.

Think about all these things which I have just said and ask our Lord to make you understand them.
