

*(From Mo. Marguerite Guillot Conferences to the Novices)*

## **ON HUMILITY – 1883**

My good daughters, when an edifice is being built, pretty stones are not the only ones used. We begin by digging deeply in the earth, then we place there rough and heavy stones, which are very hard and solid, to establish the foundations. On these foundations are finally placed the pretty stones, which are white and beautiful.

In the religious life, we have to erect the edifice of perfection and the foundation stone of this construction must be humility. On this stone will lean all the other parts of the edifice, that is to say, all the virtues.

Be grounded then in humility, not by seeking exterior humiliations, which would not be according to the spirit of our vocation, but by accepting those that our Lord sends you directly or indirectly, for example by being convinced that you deserve all the observations which are made to you and that you deserve more.

And if you were humble, would you be surprised that others perceive your weaknesses and your faults, since you would be convinced of them yourselves? You would be neither grieved nor troubled when corrected for your faults; you would, on the contrary, receive all observations with docility even if they were very mortifying, as it may be necessary to make them in this manner in order that you take them into more serious consideration.

Our Venerated Father even said that we should like to be corrected and humiliated; certainly nature rejects humiliation, but the will must endeavor to receive it and even love it. It is a grace we must ask our Lord to grant us.

Humility, my daughters will inspire you to accuse yourselves frankly of the faults you commit, without considering the repugnance you feel and which leads you to hide them, either to avoid a reprimand or to avoid performing the penance.

If you have talent or natural gifts, humility will prevent you from taking pleasure in it and from seeking to attract the attention, praise and approval of others. I do not tell you, under pretext of humility to hide or deny what God has given you and what you know very well you possess. No, this would be neither humility nor simplicity. True humility recognizes the qualities that we have, but it does not let us attribute the glory or merit to ourselves, as we know that these gifts come from God and it is to Him that we should refer all things.

Meditate a little on what I have just told you and you will find much profit therein.

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