

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

## **ON SUFFERING – May 3, 1866**

Today is the feast of the Finding of the Holy Cross by St. Helena. Let us enter into the spirit of this feast in order to understand the advantages of suffering.

We all have a share of the Cross, some more, others less, but all of us carry it, either exteriorly by infirmities, sickness and difficulties; or interiorly by heartaches or mental anguish, which are often more painful than any physical suffering. It is God who dispenses to each one the part that He wishes, and we must thank Him for that which He gives us rather than pity ourselves because we suffer, for the souls who are most loved by our Lord are also those who have the greatest share in His sufferings. Did the Blessed Virgin not suffer more than any other creature? And yet, Jesus loved no one more than His Mother. The dearer they were to our Lord the more they were tried. Let us therefore love the Cross and suffering for that is the only true good.

I strongly urge you not to talk to one another about your sufferings and trials, nor about petty annoyances that may come up in your employments, or in your relations with your Sisters.

Disturb me ten times a day if you need to speak of your suffering, but let it never happen that you do so to one of your Sisters; you could do her a great deal of harm, and at the same time you would be unfaithful to grace. Lastly, never let it appear exteriorly, either by your attitude or by words communicated to one of your Sisters that you suffer; keep your sufferings between yourselves and our Lord.

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- The saints, too, all suffered.