

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

## **ON THE RESPECT AND POLITENESS THAT THE SISTERS MUST HAVE AMONG THEMSELVES – March 1867**

My good daughters, I wish that among you these would reign that kindness, friendliness, graciousness, that religious politeness which is the lovable flower of charity that should be found in our Cenacles, more than anywhere else. I do not speak of a worldly politeness which is more or less put on, and which is often only an outward form or a means of giving a good appearance, of seeking to please others and of attracting their attention. That, too often, has for principle only pride, vanity, self-love, and does not come from true charity.

I ask of you that politeness which is based on the religious respect that we must have for one another because of the habit that we wear and especially because of our title of spouses of our Lord. The Rule prescribes this respect for us,, and nothing is more contrary to this mutual respect than the familiarity, the free and easy behavior which sometimes exists among you. When respects is lacking in the relations of community life, all restraint ends and disappear little by little. Then proceeds trouble, hurt feelings, sufferings which sometimes render Community life very painful. Have, then, respect for one another.

But would it be enough to respect one another? My good daughters, you must furthermore love one another. I will not cease repeating to you the words of St. John to his disciples: *“My little children, love one another.”* Love one another in God and for God; love all equally regardless of the natural sentiments of antipathy or sympathy that you may experience. If your affection for your Sisters is inspired only by entirely supernatural motives, one will never notice among you these sympathies or antipathies which are so imperfect and which so injure the love of God in souls.

If it happens that, in spite of your will, you experience a natural antipathy for one or other of your Sisters, ask our Lord to help you to triumph over it. Make of it the subject of your particular examen; offer your communions and your adorations to obtain this important grace, and you will be the victor! Then, if you have thoughts against the person who is antipathetic to you, know, for your own peace of soul, that in no way do these thoughts render you guilt as long as they displease you and that you repel them.

This charity, this love for your Sisters will give your mutual relations the respect and politeness that I recommend to you so much.

Respect one another, love one another, my good daughters, and our house will be a little Paradise.

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