

(From Mo. Marguerite Guillot Conferences to the Novices)

THE LOVE OF JESUS AND OF HIS CROSS – February 1884

I have never forgotten a thought that I read once and which did me so much good; it is, *“Jesus is my love, my joy, and His Cross my delight, my peace.”*

Truly, could we not, each one of us, apply these words to ourselves, since it is for Him that we are here that we work, that we suffer, for without the love of Jesus which sustains us, we could not lead a life as painful to nature as ours is. But for Jesus and with Jesus, our souls accept all sacrifices; they find here all that they need and can be neither sad nor troubled.

A person who would not have peace living near our Lord would be a self-seeking person, one who seeks her personal satisfaction, sensible joys rather than seeking only Jesus, His love and His will; and our Lord, who is a jealous Spouse, sends her trials and temptations to oblige her to come out of herself, to forget herself in order to think of Him.

Seek then, only Jesus and you will have peace with true joy, that joy which the accomplishment of our Lord’s will gives, a joy which exist in the midst of all the sufferings of body and soul, in the midst of all trials. The cross, for souls who wish only Jesus, becomes their delight and their peace as the maxim that I have cited to you says, for with the cross comes Jesus, Who sweetens its bitterness.

Furthermore, suffering unites you more to your Spouse than all possible consolations. Yes; for example, the day when in aridity, dryness and desolation, you make your adoration, accepting these suffering for the love of our Lord, you are nearer to Him than if you passed the entire hour in delight.

You may not understand that easily, so you grieve when the Divine Master places you in such states where He permits pain and trials to fill your lives; you become troubled and believe yourselves abandoned by God. Instead of feeding this desolate thought, cast a glance toward heaven and think of all the saints who arrived there by passing through these same exterior and interior sufferings. Suffering is the means of proving to our Lord that your love is true, for the friends of Jesus do not delight only on *Tabor*, they accompany Him to Calvary.

The Apostles believed that the happiness of *Tabor* would last forever; they wanted to remain there but they were mistaken. We are not made to rest on *Tabor* here below; it is on Calvary that we must dwell if we wish to be in the sweet company of Jesus. Miss Jaricot, the foundress of the work of the Propagation of the Faith, said one day to our Venerated Father: *“Father, I know people who have joys, who seem to enjoy happiness for quite a long time; why then is it not the same among us where joys are always short and accompanied by sacrifices*

and pain?" "My daughter," he replied, "Our Lord lodge where He can. There are so few persons who are willing to receive Him with His cross that when He finds one, He returns continually to her and there He plants His Cross: - that is your case."

Thus, if you approach our Lord, you will feel His Cross. Embrace it with love; do not drag it, do not drop it. Make a friend of this Cross which will enable you to enter into intimacy with Jesus, and bear your sufferings generously without letting anything appear exteriorly so that no one may suspect by your sadness that you have some sorrow. Imitate our Father, *"Our Saint"*, who was never more joyful than when he had sorrow or cross to bear.

I would doubt the vocation of a religious who would habitually appear gloomy and bored. Can one always be sad when one has Jesus as we have Him? Then, if you have troubles, do not let them be seen exteriorly; speak about them with our Lord and with your Superiors.
