



December 1st, without indication of year

1^{er} Advent Sunday

Saint Marie Eugenie of Jesus

Dear daughters,

I would like to encourage you to spend this Advent season in a meaningful way, preparing yourselves through prayer, contemplation, adoration and fervour to properly celebrate Christmas. The Church year begins today. People in the world begin theirs on New Year's Day, we begin ours with the advent of Our Lord Jesus Christ. This season must be a time of renewal for us.

We have just completed a year during which the life of Our Lord Jesus Christ should have developed within us. We have gone through the whole series of feasts of his life, the feasts of the Incarnation, the Nativity, those of his childhood, the mysteries of his sufferings, his life in the desert, etc. Following the same pattern, we have honoured his public life, and we continue to honour his life through the saints, for the life of the saints is nothing other than the life of Our Lord continued through the ages by the Holy Church. A year has gone by. On this occasion, let us take a look at ourselves.

To what extent have we grown closer to Our Lord during this time? To what extent has Our Lord lived in us? To what extent has he communicated his spirit to us, this spirit of smallness, humility, offering, adoration, and prayer? To what extent has he communicated his life to us? Within ourselves, to what extent have we imitated the saints? They are our models and have perfectly realised the life of Jesus Christ within themselves.

We must do this not with torment, for what we do will always be very little, but to make an act of contrition, to ask Our Lord for forgiveness, to ask him to make better use of his graces and to make resolutions so that this year may bear new fruit.

To live with Jesus Christ... to have Jesus Christ more within us, so that we may be holier, so that we may enter more fully into the spirit of the Church, into the spirit of the saints. Finally, to renew ourselves entirely so that we may be capable of having Jesus Christ's life within us.