

“Come follow me”
Follow the Infant Jesus in silence and obedience
30th December 1888

My dear Daughters

All these days we have been adoring Jesus in the manger; but we must make the effort to listen to what he is saying to our hearts. For, from the manger He is speaking to each one of us. What is all important is to accustom ourselves to understanding his voice properly.

I should like you to hear Him speaking to you one of the first words he uttered in his public life, while He was looking for people, for Apostles to follow Him. *Come, follow me*¹. He has spoken this word to each one of you. You are all called to follow Our Lord in a special manner. You belong to him for that. You are his. He has called you: *Come, follow me*. So, how do we follow Him?

We must see Him in the manger, where He is so small, so obedient and, today I feel moved to say to you, in a silence which has something very mysterious and very great about it. It is the Word of God who is here. He does not speak: He has chosen to be in that stage of life where human beings do not speak; He who has all the treasures of the wisdom of God; He whose mind is completely developed; He whose word is going to save the world. He

¹ Mk. 2: 14

does not speak... He is going to choose to be silent for the same length of time that other children pass without speaking.

It is a great lesson. For us, keeping silence is not the easiest thing in the world. St James says that the person who can keep a rein on their tongue is perfect. If you never spoke in a trivial way, never expressed boredom, or complaints, never spoke those imperfect words which so easily find a way to our lips – I am not even speaking of those useless words which are an obstacle to the spirit of prayer - what a degree of perfection you would reach!

Learn then from Our Lord how to be quiet: in time of silence to return within yourself, and, during recreation, to speak only words which are good, holy, inspired by God, words which do good and not those which spring from self love and bad spirit.

If you follow Jesus Christ in silence, you will follow him also in recollection and prayer. What is Our Lord doing during this silence, He who possesses all wisdom, human and divine? He is speaking to God; He is offering himself to the Father; a psalm puts these words on his lips:

*You did not ask for holocaust and victim,
then I said, 'Here I am:
my delight is to do your will.
Your law, my God, is deep in my heart.²*

² Ps. 39 (40) : 7-8

He offers himself as our victim; He offers himself to have the divine law within His heart and to accomplish it always.

Say after Him: *Your law, O my God, is within my heart; see, I am coming to do your will.* Who among us knows what God has in store for her? Perhaps great sacrifices, perhaps great sufferings and sickness... We must always be in this attitude of *Behold I come*, and say: *"I have come, I have offered myself, I have given myself, Lord, and whatever your will may be, your law is in the midst of my heart, and your will is the sovereign master of mine.*

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