

Confidence in God

7th April 1872

My dear Daughters,

We are still in the Easter season. Let us continue to draw lessons from the meditation of the Gospels. See how the Apostles and all those who had something to reproach themselves with before the death of Our Lord go to Him with confidence, immediately after His Resurrection. They seek Him ardently. Also, Our Lord manifests Himself to them in His great mercy.

Let us look at St. Peter, who committed a great crime in denying his Master. He will be the first to enter into the sepulchre after His Resurrection. Our Lord appears to him and seems to have forgotten his fault. What goodness He shows him! All that He asks of him is a triple confession of love in expiation for his triple denial. The Apostle in his love adds tears of repentance and will weep for his fault till the end of his life. From this, our Lord wants us to learn that, in spite of our miseries, our weaknesses, our infirmities, we should not cease to rejoice in Him. We should have contrition and contrition is a sorrow, it is true; but the depth of our soul ought to be in joy.

Observe well how the greater part of our thoughts are turned in on ourselves, on our weaknesses, on what we have done, how we have done it, why we have done it. Why do we not put these thoughts aside in order to

occupy ourselves more with God? God fills all. We live in Him profoundly, intimately, really, more than in the air we breathe. He is also in us; and He is in us not only as our life and the source of our being, but He forms a society with us, He loves us. This is the mystery of grace that renders us pure and agreeable to the eyes of God.

Let us call to mind all these thoughts. Let us recall all that Our Lord has done - how He lived, what He was, what He is still in the Eucharist - for the various states of Our Lord's life are the model of those through which we must pass. Let us no longer be occupied with ourselves. Blessed is she who does not think of self, or who thinks of self only for the time necessary for her twice daily examen, abandoning herself with her miseries into the arms of God.

I urge you to consider for a moment, Sisters, how often you have had useless thoughts about yourselves and seeing how little it helps to trouble yourself about your faults, the time that you lose, the distractions that result, the discouragements that you draw from it - make the resolution to spend your spiritual energy in occupying yourself with God, with His perfections, with His goodness, His mercy, for He has all perfections - the perfection of holiness, as well as the perfection of being.

M. de Bérulle used to say that the cross ought to be a means of sanctification and not an occupation. I will say the same thing about your defects. God allows us to fall now and then so that we will remain in humility, in

submission. Each mystery of Christianity generates the fruit corresponding to what it signifies. This will be the grace that we will draw from the mystery of the Resurrection which is at the same time the glory of the sacred humanity and the foundation of our hope.

The more we endeavour to know God, the more we will love Him. This is the occupation of the inhabitants of heaven. This was the occupation of Mary throughout her life. She had entered profoundly into all the mysteries of her Son. This will be for us a foretaste of eternal life. Let us strive to see in these things less the human side which is always painful than the divine side in which there is present joy and will be eternal joy.
