

Devotion to the Blessed Virgin  
9 May 1884

My dear daughters,

I regret that during the last Chapter time did not allow me to add something on the Most Blessed Virgin. If we belong to Our Lord, it is with Mary, through Mary and as daughters of Mary. In the devotion of a daughter of the Assumption, there should be a continual effort to imitate the Blessed Virgin in her perfect self-giving, so holy, so faithful to Jesus.

For us all comes from God because we have received all from him. It is also true of the Blessed Virgin. Her marvelous graces, her holiness, all that transcend all creatures is a gift of God. The Immaculate Conception is a gift of God. Her immunity from all sin is because she was faithful, but also because it is a gift of God. In the Incarnation, God gives himself to humanity. It is here that God gives himself first in an admirable way.

The humility of the Most Holy Virgin! Full of grace, she attributes nothing to herself. She has always brought everything back to God. For you, this is a first example. All that you are, all that you received...have you never stopped at these things? Don't you ever have the desire to be something before your own eyes or the eyes of others? This is far from being a daughter of Mary, who should follow her in sincere humility.

Perfect submission is another aspect of humility! Because she was humble, she was submissive and gave herself in perfect surrender to all the designs of God.

Then, prayer. We spoke of the spirit of prayer. What do you think was the prayer of Mary since she was born? What constant prayer! You all know that through grace, God dwells in us. God dwelt in the Blessed Virgin in a perfect way. How many times was Mary attentive in her heart to this presence of God! The presence of God in all places – how she was attentive! With what respect and love did she walk in this presence!

Allow me to particularly recommend to you, like Mary, to make yourself very attentive to the presence of God in you. Much agitation comes from not seeing God at your very center. With this presence, with this host, this friend, one cannot allow oneself to be dragged by many agitations, problems, useless things that makes us waste time...

What simplicity, too! The Holy Virgin, in her life of prayer, is simplicity itself. She received all from God; she brings all back to God. She lives in his presence. She gives him admirable worship, more admirable to God than that of the angels. She finds God within her and she adores him, revere him in her submission and abandon through a simplicity that deletes all useless things... She gives herself to God more and more, and seeks nothing but how to please him.

I am telling you this during this month of Mary. It is in consecrating ourselves to her, in asking her to help us, in penetrating into her heart that is so holy and so perfect, that we will learn to serve Jesus Christ well. You are also called to become perfect Religious of the Assumption this way, combining with great generosity towards Our Lord Jesus Christ a real devotion to the Blessed Virgin.

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