

FEAST OF THE BLESSED TRINITY

Live in the sight of God

23rd May 1880

My dear Daughters,

Last Sunday we spoke of the life of Faith. Now the object of our Faith is first and foremost the Blessed and Adorable Trinity whose feast is today. It is by Our Lord that we know this mystery. He is both God and Man, our Head and our Redeemer. How often, in the Gospel, does He tell us that His words are the words of the Father: that what He says, He says not of Himself: that He who hears Him hears God's word. That is obviously true since He Himself is God. But His word is the word of the Blessed Trinity.

The great devotion of the Religious of long ago was to be always attentive to the eye of the Blessed Trinity. God's eye always attentive to their actions, their attention always on that eye: there you have the foundation of the mysticism of the Desert Fathers. To be always attentive to God looking at us, is a grand and simple devotion, to know that He judges our every act, that nothing is a matter of indifference to the Blessed Trinity, that no thought or word of ours is hidden from God, that everything is seen and judged by Him: no mistake is possible in this. When we keep anything hidden in our soul that is not wholly for God, not quite straight, not quite humble, not quite simple, He sees it.

It was under the eye of God searching the most hidden recesses of their souls that the Religious of old strove always to become more pure, to live in loyalty, purity and an ever-growing perfection by simple Faith.

Well, Sisters, we too must give our mind to that. Some of you have known M. Charrier, of the Foreign Missions, I think, who had suffered the first stages of martyrdom. He and his companions had been taken up, tortured and beaten with rods, and were freed by the French just as they were going to be strangled. He told us that in China there was only one devotion: never to forget the Presence of God. To forget it was to be lost. The only strength was the thought that everything one does or suffers is for God.

We live in a time of ferment and agitation. Evil plans threaten us. Will they be carried out? God alone knows. But in the midst of so many uncertainties we can draw great strength from the habit of living in the Presence of God. You know the psalm says: “*Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain?*” (Ps. 2:1) “What means this turmoil among the nations? Why do the people cherish vain dreams?” Peoples may be in agitation, but One is mightier than they, and He can break as a potter can break a piece of earthenware in his hands. What are the human plans compared with God’s Will? If God wills the Church to be tried, it is so that those who deserve it shall receive a crown and greater graces to bear the trial. And so the remembrance of God’s Presence, the habit of living under His eye is an infallible means of coming through trials and obtaining help.

From this follows a sovereign disposition in the face of all that threatens us in this world, and two things I specially want to recommend to you. First, a resolution, firmer than ever, never to consent to any disposition that would be a venial sin. You see, purity is the first kind of strength to oppose the world’s threats. It means to be pure in God’s sight, to avoid every imperfect disposition, to make one’s soul so faithful, so opposed to any

compromise, in which might be the least sin that God will be with us and that we shall be truly His children.

The second thing I specially recommend is unbounded trust in God. By this we are sure to have God Almighty with us and for us. It makes us His children in a special way: He becomes wholly our Father, and the Gospel words: “Are not sparrows sold two for a penny? and yet it is impossible for one of them to fall to the ground without your Heavenly Father’s will. And as for you, He takes every hair of your head into His reckoning” (Mt. 10:29-30) become wholly true of us. Doubtless they apply to everyone. But God’s Fatherhood is especially tender to those who are specially His own, more than for all the others. The care He took of Our Lady, of the Apostles, of all the Saints, He will take of us, if by generous fidelity and boundless trust we surrender ourselves wholly to Him.

Many things will be said outside. People will tell you of threats, of wicked plans that may alarm you. But do not let this disconcert you. Rather let the Feast of the Blessed Trinity bring you two hearty resolves: on one hand hate evil, recoil from the least offence against God, and on the other, cultivate great purity of heart and fervour in the Religious life. We shall fail sometimes because we are fragile. But at least we can rise again at once and keep nothing in our heart that God will not be pleased to see there. Let us give ourselves to Him with boundless trust, with perfect surrender, with complete abandonment of ourselves into His hands, saying: “Since I am His child, He is my Father. And what greater support could one have than the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit?”

When in the council of the Blessed Trinity everything is arranged for a poor little creature, what madness on this creature’s part to have the least worry and anxiety for itself, instead of surrendering heartily to such holy and Fatherly plans! We ought to desire one

day to possess the Blessed Trinity. Now, the Blessed Trinity knows what we need in order to come to the Beatific vision, and we do not. The Blessed Trinity knows how much grace we need to bear, what will be sent to us, and we do not. It follows that if we surrender ourselves wholly we shall have but one preoccupation: to be holy, to be as holy as we can, as faithful as we can. We shall win through above all by the dispositions that I have pointed out to you. They will so guide us that God seeing to the very bottom of our soul will find nothing there that does not please Him.
