



Marie Eugénie – Intimate Notes N.176/01
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My Lord, Jesus, I want to write for myself alone what you have made me think of this morning during my profession. Give me the grace to remember it. I was saying my office and rejoicing over the choice of your commandments, and turning towards you in prayer, hope and solemn admiration. During the Mass, I tried to pass over all my natural ideas in order to come to Jesus of Nazareth, to Jesus coming from the womb of his Mother in the stable, to Jesus the poor laborer submissive to Joseph, to Jesus preaching in Judea, to Jesus on the Cross at the hour when the world did not know the power of the Cross. That is the Spouse that I ask for and that is given to me. And he said to me: Do you know what my life is like? Do you realize that my poverty is hard, that all is lacking, there are no comforts, no satisfaction at any moment nor in any thing? Do you realize that in my laborer's house, we work beyond our strength, we suffer, we do not have even what is necessary, we go without sleep, there is no time for self, no food or medicine for one's needs? Do you know that poverty is a yoke which brings one to submission to everyone and which places even spiritual helps at a distance? —It is an alms, if anyone pays attention to the wife of the poor person in his hardships and needs: she is a burden if she complains. Do you know that I am jealous? that in order to be mine, you must take your pleasure only in me... 10 lines missing.

Do you know what my obedience is, to all, those who understood me and those who misunderstood me, who ignored, who did not wish me well, at every moment, always, in everything. Do you submit yourself with me to my Father, then to Mary, to Joseph, then to whoever wishes to command with any kind of ecclesiastical legitimacy?

Do you know that I was led against the grain (in contrary fashion), beneath my lights, into things without beauty, without justice in my eyes, will you go even to the Cross, will you refuse nothing when they want to apply it to you? Do you see my abandonment, my sacrifice, my sufferings, do you want all of that? But do you want it, to do it yourself without being forced, without letup, in all things? So that you might be poor, lacking, laborious, in this interior house where I call you, because you are in Nazareth, when the slightest movement is enough for you to be comfortable, without giving scandal to anyone so that without your seeing my jealousy, without my rejecting you for not having given up every last natural pleasure, so that, without turning you away, and despite my leaving you free, in the midst of the world, you keep yourself as a slave and deprived of the life of the senses and of vanity, you close interiorly your eyes and the taste for all things, opening them for me alone, whether I let myself be felt and seen or not? —closing yourself up in an interior house. Finally, so that, without my pressing you, you give up without cease your own will, obey all, embrace contradictions with a light heart etc. ?

So this is what you are going to vow, make your rule without anyone being severe in requiring it of you. —My heart, on hearing this, felt great remorse on account of past negligence in little things, little immortifications, faults against silence and the rule etc.

The one who presents himself is chosen from among thousands. He is the only thing necessary for my soul. Oh! let him rightly speak in this way — Now that I have embraced Him, I must respond to his light and no more fail to observe the laws of this house in which I have become at least the servant, for a failure puts me outside it, and as a spouse, I take distance, I offend my spouse —

The sacrifice of Jesus on the altar is given to me to make up for the many stains that remain in me and should make me get rid of them even if I do not fail in this. For this faith, is given me in order to do it, not at all to excuse myself. It is for me, by a humble fidelity, to keep the grace of having been admitted, without having yet

observed the laws of the house. I promise you Lord Jesus, to live now as in Nazareth, and to make a Nazareth of this house—