

## LOVE FOR OUR LORD IN THE TABERNACLE

24 October 1875

My dear Daughters,

It is impossible not to return to the same topics in the recommendations I give you. Today, I would like to return to the deep respect, the great love we should have for the dwelling place of Our Lord Jesus Christ among us.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, living on our altars, dwelling in the tabernacle in our chapel, should be the Object of our thoughts, our whole heart; and if I can add, the dream of our soul, the deep attachment through which we belong to God. If there is complete self-giving, the consecration of one's person to God, there will also be, I think, for practically everyone, the gentle souvenir, the thought, the mark of the first moments which God has allowed to make us feel His love.

I believe that there are but a few people, above all in the religious life, who cannot remember those instances in their youth when the thought of Our Lord in the tabernacle, loving and inviting them, has sufficed to fill their soul and somewhat make it overflow with love. Among you here present, many

have certainly felt this joy of being called, being chosen by Our Lord Jesus Christ, being loved by Him and in turn preferring Him to all, possessing Him often in their hearts through Holy Communion and then bringing Him through the streets of a city or the deserted paths of the countryside, alone adoring the Creator of all things in the midst of a world which did not know what intimate treasure the young girl carried, which later became that of the Religious.

I remind you of these thoughts, my dear Daughters, because I think it is good to awaken these attitudes, to make them grow in our soul. We can never know too how much to return to these joys of betrothal which Our Lord has made us experience once before. But we should not expect these joys to last for a lifetime; that is not natural: ordinarily, God calls a soul and draws it to Him through tenderness, consolations, little effusions of joys which are found in Him; but after all this, since He does not call except to carry His cross, the soul has to pass through trials and experience contradictions.

Do not think, my Sisters, that this is the share only of the Daughters of the Assumption; all pass through this. Yesterday, while speaking with a holy priest, I admit having

been frightened for an instant deep within me, when I heard about the sufferings of a young Religious of an old Order (she had been our student) and who seemed to be passing through a very terrible trial, a very great loneliness, that I was almost afraid that she would succumb to it, and interiorly, I asked God to come and help her.

Yet, God had called her, even her, by a great love, by a desire to be generous, by a living feeling of who He is. But there are moments when God allows His poor creature to feel alone, to experience her utter weakness, so that she can give herself more generously, without feeling what she receives from God. It is good that it is this way; for if we did not have these moments of difficulties, of sadness, where would our generosity and our love come in, and how would we move up the painful road which our Lord first walked for love of us?

Therefore, it is joy, it is attraction which comes first, trials follow; and through these trials in which God sometimes still makes Himself felt, a very dear souvenir of God's call, of the privilege He has given us by choosing us from among all others, should be kept. This grace usually comes from the tabernacle. Think back; there is certainly a church, a

tabernacle before which you have felt touched the most; all this must now be carried over to our tabernacle, our altar, our chapel where God dwells by a very great love which no creature can equal. For, if someone proposes that we remain hidden behind such structures, be enclosed therein, and live thus, I do not say for a whole lifetime, but all time, until eternity, until the end of the ages, I do not think there has ever been a man big enough to reduce himself to this state out of love for another, or even for all creatures put together.

There, we have what Our Lord does for us! All the details of our chapel its windows or doors, its stalls, even its walls ought to be dear to us more than any other place; They should fill our thoughts, our minds, in such a way that in moving around the house, in taking walks, if we catch a glimpse of these, our heart should immediately be uplifted, pass over everything, and go to the tabernacle where Jesus Christ dwells and gives His life for us.

I recommend, my dear Daughters, that you work towards making these attitudes grow in you; for if you make these really present, very much alive in you, respect will follow, and love will fill your soul. Negligence, thoughtlessness, and

distractions will be taken away; and this first preparation will make recollection easier for you, your prayer and encounters with God will be more authentic and deeper, and even while working, your heart will go very naturally towards Our Lord, present in the holy Tabernacle.

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