

Love of Our Lord

7th September 1872

My dear Daughters,

After hearing so many sermons during the retreat¹, you have certainly made resolutions. But there is one thing that includes all possible resolutions: it is both the end we are aiming for in making them and the source of all the virtues we want to practice. I want to speak about the love of Our Lord.

Indeed, it is by Our Lord and for Him that we must live and it is towards him that all our affections and all the tenderness of our heart must tend. If it is true to say of an ordinary human being: *How can he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, love God whom he has not seen*², how much more truly can it be said of the Man-God? He came to us, He who became our brother and our spouse, and He gives himself to us and wants to lead us to God. So, our love for him must be the strongest and deepest feeling of our heart.

The life of a Religious of the Assumption has to tend to this single goal. Many of us have made the vow to work to extend the Kingdom of God in souls, that is, to work to make Our Lord Jesus Christ known and loved. But in the

¹ Preached by P. d'Alzon at Auteuil, 17-25th August

² 1Jn. 4:20

first instance we must work to establish his Kingdom in our own souls and make him, and him alone, Lord and Master of our whole being.

And this, my Sisters, must be taken seriously. On this subject Our Lord said something which is often quoted: *It is not those who say: Lord, Lord who will enter the kingdom of heaven, but those who do the will of my Father who is in heaven.*³ It follows that we shall prove our love if we spend our life doing his holy will.

We often experience a weariness of this present life. I sometimes hear comments like: "What is the meaning of life?" "What am I doing for God?" I could understand it if we led a life of pleasure. In that case we could say: What is the use of life? But we generally have something to suffer: why not use it to make our love grow?

I have often noticed that the great preoccupation of our sisters on their death-beds has been that they have not worked harder to increase their love for Our Lord. During their last moments they strive to make as many acts of love as possible. Why wait, Sisters, till the last days of our life to make the effort to attain the degree of love that God wants of us? In view of this can we not from now on accept our sufferings and make all the efforts that God wants us to make? Let us begin from today to use the life God gives us in a profitable way: it is such a great grace.

³ Mt. 7: 21

Look at Our Lady. Of all creatures she is undoubtedly the one who best loved God. When her Son died she did not ask to be taken from this world. On the contrary she stayed on earth for years after his Ascension. She is thought to have lived to the age of sixty five. God left her here below. And having been faithful from the first moment of her existence she went on being faithful to the end. In this she is our model.

I think that if you said to God each morning: "My God I thank you for all you are going to send me today. It may be pain in my body, frustration for my will, something that will hurt my feelings. I will it all, I accept it all, I want to use it all to grow in love for you." If you said this each morning, you would, I think, make quick progress in the love of Our Lord. Do this then, Sisters. Let us make of tomorrow's feast⁴ a fresh beginning, and start under Our Lady's patronage, a new life that will be wholly consecrated to the love of Jesus.

⁴ The Birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary

