



22nd February 1880

MEDITATE ON THE “TE DEUM”

Saint Marie Eugenie of Jesus

My dear Daughters,

I think it is useful to talk, from time to time, on some parts of the Divine Office in order to arouse our attention and stir up our devotion. For quite a while now, I have wanted to speak to you of the “Te Deum”. This hymn which the Church puts on our lips - when we are not in the penitential season - was the object of such great devotion on the part of the saints that, for example, St. Benedict, whenever the “Te Deum” began, used to leave his place and to walk down the stalls of his brothers in order to arouse in them spiritual joy as well as great fervour and devotion in singing it. The “Te Deum”, as you know, is the hymn of joy of the Christians; and I would like to call your attention to this point: that the joy of Christians - the praise of God, should begin here, as it will be sung eternally.

The first part of the “Te Deum” is dedicated to praise. We confess, we admire the Blessed Trinity in Its unity, what of the Three Divine Persons is in his greatness, in his beauty, in his perfections. Here is where the true joy of Christians is found.

Then, all of a sudden, after having praised God in His holiness, in the unity of His essence, and the Trinity of His persons, and this in union with the Cherubim, the Seraphim, all the choir of saints, the Church, turning toward Jesus Christ, who made known to us the Blessed Trinity and Its unity, who opened for us the gates of glory, tells him: “You are the King of Glory”, and she now takes up all that the Son of God has done for us, coming down to earth into the womb of the Blessed Virgin and ransoming us with His Blood.

All that follows in the “Te Deum” is like a call to the mercy of God, and it arouses confidence in the heart of the faithful. Well, I do not know if you are aware that one of the most learned saints - St. Thomas Aquinas - used to repeat the last part of the “Te Deum” from the words: “You are the King of Glory”, every time he greeted the Blessed Sacrament.

You, Sisters, who are often before the Blessed Sacrament, you could repeat at times this “King of Glory, Christ”, in order to arouse in you a more ardent adoration of Jesus Christ, addressing yourselves to this King of Glory, this Master of Glory, to Him who will grant it to us, and who has opened its gates to us by His Blood, His death, His sacrifice. To imitate the saints, to join them in their devotion to all that the Church put on our lips, is a great means of sanctification and of stirring up our attention at prayer while one recites it. That is why I wanted to address to you these few words in order that you may in turn ponder on them by yourselves.
