



PRAYER THROUGH CHRIST OUR LORD

Mother Marie Eugenie, August 8th 1875

My dear Daughters,

It is true that religious know everything that one need know to attain salvation, yet it is just as true that they are not always attentive to the practical application of this knowledge. The “Instructions” at the Chapter are precisely to remind you of things you know fully well, but which, because of human frailty, you fail to constantly remember.

What I want to bring out today is this thought: whatever fault or difficulty or failure you may be conscious of in you, in Our Lord you can find relief and all the help you need. As you all know, the Lord wills to be, aside from being our Savior and Redeemer, our “means”. He chose to be this as well as our last end. In Him we find all that is good and in Him we can do all that is good. Everything is granted through His prayer, and our prayers become all-powerful when, like our Mother the Church, we pray “*through Jesus Christ, Our Lord*”.

Sometimes, at meditation, reflect on the honor and homage and praise offered by Christ to the most holy and adorable Trinity while He was on earth. What complete homage and thanksgiving, infinite adoration and reparation, what prayer powerful enough to obtain everything. His power was equal to His Father’s and the homage He rendered to the Blessed Trinity was adequate.

As it was in His mortal life, so it is now. In the Blessed Sacrament, Jesus is for His Father the Host of perfect homage, praise, adoration, and love and we all participate in this since we receive Him within us and it is through Him that we pray. It is a pity that we do not believe enough in the power of this prayer “*through Christ Our Lord*”, nor in the value of every moment we spend praying thus, nor in giving thanks through His thanksgiving, that great “*thank You*” that, as Bossuet says, is enough to obtain all of God’s gifts.

Gift and thanksgiving being equal in value, this makes of the thanksgiving what theologians call “adequate”, that is, perfectly equal. The same goes for our prayers begging God’s

forgiveness for our sins and the sins of the world through the prayer of Christ Jesus, through His agony. There is in that a reparation equal to all the rights of God.

Finally, we are sure of obtaining all we ask through Christ Our Lord. That was what He meant when He said: *“Whatever you ask my Father in my Name He will grant it to you.”* (Jn. 14: 13). *“Where two or three are gathered together in My Name; I am there in the midst of them.”* (Mt. 18: 20). *“Until now you have not asked anything in My Name. Ask and it will be granted to you so that your joy may be complete.”* (Jn. 16: 24). *“If your faith were the size of a mustard seed you could say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there’, and it would move; nothing would be impossible for you.”* (Mt. 17: 19).

To this add what St. Augustine says: that if we do not obtain what we ask for, God will give us something better. For instance, we may pray for an invalid to be cured, and God judges it better to give him eternal happiness instead. We did not get what we asked for, but we got something better, something more excellent: a grace of salvation, of conversion, of repentance, of a shortening of purgatory, of some gift we are not conscious of but which is immensely greater than what we asked for.

When we ask for temporal things, we do not always get them. You ask with faith that God will remove some obstacles, like a mountain, perhaps a mountain of imperfections or infidelity or worry will be cast into the sea. In the whole history of the Church there is only one mountain removed by the prayers of a saint; and even this was partially for a spiritual reason since it was to make place for a Church. But how often there are marvelous graces granted: conversion, the spread of the faith, the welfare and salvation of souls.

However, let us feel free to ask what we like, and with fervor! Ask for this or that or any other thing. Our Lord Himself gives us the example in the Gospel. A man goes and wakes up his neighbor at night to ask for some bread. This is a very material thing. He knocks and knocks and begs for the loan of three loaves. His friend is in bed, the children are asleep, and all the answer he gets is: *“Leave me alone!”* But in the end, worn out by his importunity, the friend gets up and gives the man what he asks for (Cf. Lk. 11: 5-8).

We must do the same with our heavenly Father when we need a piece of bread, an actual grace, the smallest thing. Let us ask for this from God with trust. When the children ask for a sunny day to go on vacation, God does not think it is wrong. He accepts this naïve prayer. If He does not grant it, He gives something better.

Let us go to God with the simplicity of a child. He says so Himself: *“If you who are evil do not give a serpent to your children when they ask for bread, how much more must we have confidence in our heavenly Father Who is goodness itself (Cf. Lk. 11: 13).* So, you see how we may ask for temporal goods: for fine weather, for rain, for a good harvest, or for peace; which is an most excellent thing and which the Church asks for every day. This prayer does not prevent wars from breaking out but it brings us better gifts, such as graces of spiritual renewal and conversions due to the sufferings of war.

It is impossible to know all the designs of Providence, but we do know with certainty that our prayers “through Jesus Christ Our Lord” will not only be acceptable as adoration, reparation and thanksgiving, but that they will most certainly also bring us most excellent gifts for our souls.

Sisters, you know all this but it is well to ponder on it sometimes, so as to go with greater fidelity and love to the Sacred Heart and pray to get more grace and love and an increasing detachment from the things of this world.

Do not worry about such things as: “Are people pleased with me?” “Are they displeased?” “Have I succeeded?” “Have I made mistakes?” “Where shall I be next year?” Say rather: “as long as I pray, what does all the rest matter? Everything will be taken care of”. Does not everything depend on Him who holds all in His hands? The temporal as well as the spiritual, as well as the eternal? Is not God ready to listen to His Son, the perfect Mediator who binds me to God and makes me one with Him? He is Christ the Lord Whom I receive into my heart and Whom I adore here exposed on the altar. God must have loved me so much as to have given me His Son, and, since He has been given to me, He alone must, by right, be the object of my thoughts and the center of my attention as M. de Berulle says.

“Every thought on something else is a waste of time and will disappear. But the thoughts I give to the Lord are immortal like Him. They will rise up with me like a guard of honor and they will last forever. God has not asked much of me in this world. He has only asked that I live for Jesus, follow in His footsteps, to give Him everything and expect all from Him. A life of everlasting peace and joy will be the fruit of my sacrifice. When trials come, I have but to look at my Savior’s Cross. The end of everything is Heaven with Our Lord, peace with Our Lord, joy and glory with Our Lord.”

This is the way of peace for souls in this world, until they reach everlasting peace in heaven.