



## CONSECRATION TO THE SACRED HEART

*Mother Marie Eugenie, June 13<sup>th</sup> 1875*

My dear Daughters,

I would like to speak to you this week of the preparation that ought to dispose us for the Act of Consecration to the Heart of Our Lord (June 16, 1875).

This Consecration is to be done individually. The Pope has not wished that this be a solemn Consecration of the Universal Church. Because the Church comes from the Heart of Jesus, she belongs to Our Lord Jesus Christ and, as a consequence, has no need of being consecrated to Him. (The solemn Act of the pontificate of Leo XIII). But each faithful, each member of the Church in particular, needs to consecrate himself to the Heart of Jesus. The thought of the Holy Father, then, was that in all the countries of the world, all the Christians, all those who still have some faith, some fidelity and fervor, join together one day to pronounce this Consecration into which the Pope has put the spirit and the thought that ought to animate us in this offering of ourselves to the Heart of Jesus.

We can admire the unity of Holy Church and the affirmation of its strength in this Act. We see that all individual energies unite to make but one after the Holy Father has spoken. This is one of the most beautiful sides of Catholic unity - each one can be sure that each Act proposed by the Pope, although left to individual liberty, will be accomplished with fervor by each of the faithful. We are going to see on the 16<sup>th</sup> of June the millions of Christians, separated by place and by circumstance, unite themselves in one same thought and in one same prayer in reciting the Act of Consecration to the Heart of Jesus.

You will see, Sisters, that, in saying this Act, one of the things affirmed therein and without which a true consecration is not possible, is the unity of faith, perfect submission to the Vicar of Christ, a sentiment which, thanks be to God, is very profoundly impressed in the hearts of all Religious of the Assumption but which ought to be expressed by every one of the faithful who wishes to have true devotion to the Heart of Our Lord.

The Pope also tells us that we will find consolation, hope, and support in this devotion. We certainly have great need to find consolation in the times in which we live. It is impossible to see the sorrows of the Church, the dangers of the present situation, the threats of war and of revolutions, the persecutions all around us in countries where at other times piety and the religious life flourished without obstacle. It is impossible, I say, to see all these things without experiencing much sorrow, without feeling great fear on account of the evils that the future seems to reserve for us.

As Pius IX has said, the Church has her promises. She cannot perish. But the poor souls... how many there are exposed to be lost! What are the souls of the little children, brought up in Switzerland, for example, in Germany, in the Protestant countries in which one seeks to remove God and faith from education, not going to suffer? In Italy, all the members of the priesthood are obliged to carry firearms. The Church has no priests, and in this way at the hour of death some souls will be deprived of the help of a priest and will not receive absolution and Holy Communion, to strengthen and assist them.

That is the work of the wicked. The Holy Father invites us therefore, to go and seek our consolation in the Heart of Him Who has redeemed souls by His Blood and Who has so loved the world, because these are the very words of the revelation: "Behold the Heart that has so loved men!" He loves each of these souls who are in danger, and if all turn toward Him and ask God, in the name of this sign of love, to have pity on them, to remove the present evils and the dangers that are to be feared in the future, it seems that one can hope to obtain everything by this very unanimous, very zealous, very fervent act, a renewal in the world and a renewal also in souls.

You understand, Sisters, that if this is proposed to all the members of the Church, even to the most tepid and to the most imperfect, how much more should the spouses of Jesus Christ purify their hearts in order to make a very perfect consecration of themselves. As one of our Sisters rightly said the other day, contrition in souls is in proportion to the fervor of love. What contrition ought we not excite in ourselves to make this Act with great fervor of heart, with a very pure heart that penetrates the skies!

Certainly, we each have habitual imperfections and you know that all the Holy Fathers, that all the masters of the spiritual life are unanimous in saying that there is nothing that ought to draw our attention more than these habitual imperfections, than these habitual venial sins, and it is just a matter of examining our conscience to discover the faults into which one easily falls.

How necessary it is to deplore these bad inclinations, to detest them, to detach oneself from them in order to attach oneself to Our Lord Jesus Christ, to work to purify oneself of them so as to render oneself ardent and fervent!

We are making a novena that does not impose long prayers on us, but which we can render very efficacious by the dispositions of our soul. We can, by recollection, by the spirit of prayer, by patience in difficulties and in the little troubles, by habitual interior mortification, by the

sacrifice of everything that concerns us, give much more to God than the simple faithful and merit that this Act, penetrating the heavens, reaches the Heart of Our Lord, obtains the graces which the Church and souls need, and whatever the Holy Father desires.

That is why, my dear Daughters, I believe I had an obligation to speak to you about that. You still have several days to dispose yourselves for it. Turn all your thoughts in that direction. Try to make such a fervent Communion that you gain a plenary indulgence, and prepare your hearts to make a Consecration to God, a gift as ardent, as fervent as you are capable of making.