

HIDE OTHER PEOPLE'S FAULTS WHEN ONE
IS NOT CHARGED TO CORRECT THEM

28. 10. 77.

My dear Daughters,

Today I want to make some recommendations on charity, and to emphasize the point of Rule which says "...hide other people's faults when one is not bound to draw attention to them".

It is obviously an act of charity to warn the superior of a Sister's habitual faults. It is done so that the Sister may amend, and so that she may be spared occasions of falling. But this applies to the Superior and not at all to the other Sisters. St. Jane Frances is severely against any little words such as "Sister X is very good. What pity she is so unreasonable, so dissipated..." and hundred and one other remarks of the same sort. This is unfortunately a fault that is very easy to omit, so that we have to be very watchful not to be the occasion of any Sisters' seeing the faults of another. This is a thing that does no good and that offends God extremely..

It is the same as regards people of the world and the children. Their faults may be made known only so far as may be necessary for their perfection, that is, so that they may be corrected. It is altogether right to warn mistresses of the faults of a child since she has charge of her. With regard to people of the world, we have no

right to harm their reputation. Detraction like calumny is a grave sin in the sight of God. So we are bound to say nothing of any kind that could harm our neighbor's good name. This is difficult, so we need to watch over ourselves closely, not to make known the faults we think we see in others, but to hide these faults and we make known only people's good qualities. Except in cases when zeal and charity requires us to speak in order to prevent harm..For example, a child has a habit of talking to another child in a low voice and in private. That makes one anxious and it is against school rules. In such a case tell not only one mistress but tell ~~tan~~, because if everyone is warned, they will watch to keep harm away from God's house. But on the other hand, if someone in the parlor says to you "X is worldly and frivolous", try to change the conversations with folk who talk uncharitably, and never to be uncharitable oneself. Our Constitutions help us a lot by telling us not to complain of anything to anyone, and to take everything in peace, gentleness and sweetness. That is the way to practise charity. It ever makes charity easy. Our Rule give us many other helpful details. Read it often. Read it with attention, and see how you can keep it in your everyday life. This is the way to avoid little faults that easily slip in and soon drive away the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit who wants to live in our souls is extremely sensitive to all that

touches on charity, kindness and good will towards others. He is the Master of Charity towards God and likewise the Master of Charity towards our neighbour and He dwells in hearts where both these aspects of charity reign. That is why we must be extremely watchful over ourselves as regards to all these things; both for the glory of God and the honor of the Congregation.

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