



Marie Eugénie – Intimate Notes N.154/02
Retreat 1837

I understand only that which I experience. At this moment, I understand the sentiment of the Saints who loved better to obey their Superiors who were not according to their taste and in things that caused displeasure because they were surer of not following their own will, but conformable and submissive to the Will of God. When I think that I will not have any severities to undergo, that it will be a life according to my taste for studies, for the family, for prayer, that obedience will not be difficult with someone I love and who has a very broad mind, I am, despite all, frightened and troubled. I find a thousand objections, a thousand difficulties, repugnances. In advance, I revolt against a thousand things, I complain about all that I do not like, I miss all that I liked in the past, I become troubled and anguished, I feel revolt and fall into a horrible state: of hatred, refusal on the part of my will, of anxiety, and horrible withdrawal. But, since the Spirit urges me to will what God wills and since He shows me my vocation clearly written

-in the advice of a Director whom God has sent me and whom he has enlightened so that he can
lead me,

-in my position,

-in the graces that God grants me and has granted me,

-in the lights that He gives me

-and even in the project of this work towards whose founder God sent me in such an extraordinary manner, and finally,

- in my duty to work for the salvation of my mother and of those whom I love

I fight against the Spirit and unfortunate creature that I am, I try to escape from Him.

May God be praised! Up until now, I have been vanquished in the struggle.

Then, from the depths of my dejection, of my sadness, of my anguish, almost agony, I would say, I end up being forced, one might say, to place myself in the hands of God and to say that his will be done, whatever it may be, whatever it may cost me. I entrust my life, my will, my intelligence, my body to his good pleasure — in such a way that, if it pleased him that I enter a more severe order, that I suffer greatly in every way, I would do it tomorrow.

As soon as I have said that sincerely, an ineffable peace flows into my soul, all the waves of my thoughts, my worries, are calmed; everything seems easy to me and feel assured that God is with me, that I am pleasing to him, that he accepts me and that I am united to him. I haven't the least scruple. It seems that that washes away all my sins, I am strong, joyful, happy with myself, ready for prayer, full of energy and of a spirit of gentleness and peace. I have only to ask God what he wants and I accomplish it with so much confidence then, and I experience it so well when I have prayed.

So, two things are harmful to me: self-seeking when I think about what something will or will not cost me, 2) pride which makes me want my sacrifice to be admired, that I admire it myself and I enter into all the details of what I sacrifice and stop at each thing with regret.

What is good is what God wants. Evil is what he forbids. So, if I believe that he wants me to consecrate myself to him, if I can see that as clearly as his forbidding lying or stealing, I have to become a religious.