



Marie Eugénie – Intimate Notes N.165/01
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Retreat of Election December 1840

I understand, Lord, that this life is a continual struggle. In telling You that I wish no other contentment than that of your will, I have bound myself to one thing, that as superior, is essentially my duty - that is to be religious, that is to say, to seek solely what You want because that is what alone should be accomplished here below, and it is to be not even Christian, not to want that. It is my duty to do here what God wants, my absolute duty.

Nothing bad is here except on account of my sin, on account of the little religious life, [the lack of] continual attention to the will of God that I have shown, of the liberty that I give myself to follow my own pleasure and contentment; I must begin a serious combat against all that is of me, desires, antipathies, impatience, laziness, etc.; I must combat them mercilessly, mortifying myself, in a spirit of penance and of destruction of my natural inclinations, in order to act truly only for the will of God, doing all that repels me, coming back to the fight continually, preparing for it each morning as if I had to live only for the destruction of my self-esteem, to contradict my comforts by accepting bothers, to suffer in my body what I can, to avoid complaining and speaking of myself, trying rather to hate myself in all, to do nothing according to my own tastes, withdrawing from them my taste, and to obey our Lord, seeking in them only what is His and suppressing the reflections about myself, what has been said to me, what I have been etc.

I have also trusted a lot in myself. I must scorn my own means, not be surprised that they fail me, seek my light for direction from the Saints and count only on the grace of our Lord, recognizing according to the truth, that I am the cause of all the vanity which is mixed in there and of the little progress that my sisters sometimes show.

Lastly, I should struggle to no longer judge, love, will except according to faith, and seek to give my sisters the example of what a novice should be who mortifies herself and works on herself. I must remind myself that neither sickness, nor worry, nor disappointment should cause me to cease the combat - only death.

I must also check often to see if I am free from personal movements and [if I am] in the recollection and prayer which can put me in a position to do what Jesus Christ may ask at each moment so that I produce his virtues in myself, [even] in unexpected circumstances.