



## On the WORD of GOD

*7 September 1874.*

Before your retreat, I want to remind you that we cannot repeat too often and this should be engraved in your life: under the Word of God, it is God himself that we find. God should be our food here below; the divine life penetrates our souls and makes us new creatures, true children of God. We are already God's children; already adopted by God, destined to see and possess God for all eternity. But, for that, we must become like God.

Doubtless, you remember that line from the *Imitation*: "Two dishes are served at your table, O Lord, rather two tables are set before me: one with the feast of the angels, your divine flesh in the Eucharist; the other, your Word." This idea should be very familiar to us; when we say the Divine Office the divine word is served us; we repeat the Word of God, the word of Life, the word of Holy Scripture, the life of God, the teaching of God. Many times during the day, our soul comes to find calm, rests under these veils of the divine word, as a little chick huddles under the mother's wing, to taste God, to go to God, and thus our intelligence is nourished by God just as our soul is by the Eucharist, for it is the same food which is given to us under two different forms.

We can say the same of the priest's word in the homily whenever it proclaims sure doctrine, revealed doctrine: it is God who speaks to our soul, and as Scripture says: Today if you hear his voice, do not harden your heart. *If you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts*, (Ps. 94/5:8). And, as we pray the Office each day, pay attention to this word: *I have been with you forty years and you have not listened!* (Ibid. 10). How many years has Our Lord been with us without our listening? We must not harden our hearts, we have to open our heart and make it docile, attentive, and faithful to God who comes to us under the veil of this word. Whether it is eloquent and beautiful or plain and simple, is not the question. It is whether or not it brings us to God who, like a bridegroom, comes to us, and desires to fill us with himself and prepare us, so to speak, for this eternal truth that we ought to contemplate and which will be our joy in heaven. .... You become docile and open to God through attention to the Word of God

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Not only at prayer but during the day. Form the habit of living in the presence of God.