

Recommendations

18th May 1873

My dear Daughters,

I am going away and before leaving there are two or three recommendations I should like to make.

First, pray much for me. I need it all the time but above all when I visit the houses, so that I can do good there, so that I may know and accomplish the will of God. I need your prayers more particularly this time, as I want to make several arrangements because of the difficulty of the times we are going through, and foreseeing the grave catastrophes that may happen. Have this prayer so recommended by the Pope continuously on your lips and in your heart: "Lord save us, we perish!" This is really true. Even if we escape the revolutions which are foreseen and may expose us to danger, it will be no less true to say: *Save us we perish!*

We are living in an epoch where souls are infected with the venom of anti-Christian doctrines. See with what cruelty people want, throughout Europe, to deprive little children of the teaching of the faith, of Christian education! They take all the little children to Germany to place them in the hands of the protestant institutes, which make them protestants or nothing at all. They want to manage to give the present generation a godless education.

They want to do the same with the children of France. See how the number of schools and colleges is being multiplied, where they want to produce non-believers. They want to make of us a people without God. A well known personality of our days takes pride in being able to grant everything to the Bishops; because, he says, in twenty years the coming generation will hardly bother themselves about the Bishops and will know that they can do without them.

If we look at Italy, Spain, we see the same thing: impiety is spreading everywhere, because Christian education has not been transmitted faithfully enough in the families. The Faith is confronted with a great quantity of ideas that counteract and combat it.

In such a situation, although there are still good people who can transmit the faith, it is impossible that we do not perish. The Church does all that she can to conserve the faith, to diffuse the knowledge of the mysteries of the Blessed Trinity, the Incarnation, the Redemption; but despite her efforts, evil is spreading more and more.

We must then pray much for the Church, Sisters, for souls, and also in a special way for ourselves, because one cannot live in a society where there is a great weakening in the faith, without feeling a little less strong in the faith oneself, a little less strong in fervour and in all that pertains to the supernatural order, to the order of the Gospel.

In our days, even while occupying a high place in society, one can freely deny God, deny the Gospel, talk of our Lord Jesus Christ in the most insulting terms. Everywhere the order of faith is sacrificed; and we have to pray much so as to obtain this strong and generous faith of the first Christians, this faith of the martyrs.

If you were to find yourselves in a city with a rampant epidemic, you would pray ceaselessly that the foul air would not reach you and that God would preserve your life, - although some people can be indifferent to life and death. But in the order of faith, indifference is not allowed. We have to pray continuously so that no particle of evil air may diminish our faith, fervour and supernatural spirit.

The second recommendation I would like to make concerns charity. Live very united with one another. Be faithful to all the points of the Rule, be obedient to your Superiors. Watch over yourselves in order to avoid all the little imperfections that tend to diminish charity. Be all the more attentive because I will no longer be there. I have nothing to recommend with regard to your relations with the children. I think that you give all the zeal and devotion possible to this work.

These are then my recommendations during my absence... charity, zeal, regularity. obedience and the spirit of prayer.

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