



March 26th, 1876

Instructions of Chapter - THE LAST SUPPER

Saint Marie Eugenie of Jesus

My dear Daughters,

As undoubtedly you meditate on the Last Supper whenever we keep or commemorate the Feast of the Blessed Sacrament, I will only make two suggestions that be of help to you.

Let us then call to mind how at the Last Supper Jesus offered Himself for the first time sacramentally to His Father. On the following day, He was going to offer Himself sacrificially on the Cross, but on Maundy Thursday His offering was under the form of a Sacrament, and this was the first Mass of all.

Notice however how the whole life of Jesus Christ resembled in a way the Sacrifice of the Mass. It was not, it is true, a sacrifice in the rigorous sense of the word, necessitating the immolation of the victim, but nevertheless it was a continual sacrifice of adoration, reparation, impetration and thanksgiving, and this, from the very first moment of the Incarnation.

It is for this same end that Our Lord has called us to belong to Him in Religion. Although the death of a Religious is the crowning point of her life wherein lies the real sacrifice and immolation of herself to God, nevertheless her whole life should also be one continual holocaust.

She should unite herself with the ends of Sacrifice and make her life a continual Mass by her \ spirit of adoration, submission and reparation, by thanksgiving and praise, and by her prayer for the world and for the Church.

You will find that various spiritual writers dwell upon this thought; it is quite an ordinary one in the Spiritual and Religious Life and we should always bring it to our mind when we meditate on the Last Supper.

There is still another thought to which I would like to draw your attention. It is that at the Last Supper Our Lord gave Himself for the first time sacramentally to His Apostles, and so instituted the Sacrament of His Body and Blood which was to become the food of all the faithful until the end of the world.

We ought to read Our Lord's discourse both before and after the Last Supper, pondering the words with which He surrounded the Institution of the Holy Eucharist, and telling ourselves that we ought to realize them in our lives with even more fervor than is required for all other words of the Gospel.

How deeply engraved in our minds are the last words and recommendations of a loved one! In the same way, the divine Sacrament given first to the Apostles and then to us, is surrounded with the last words and the last recommendations of Our Lord. We might often think of this, and let our minds become so penetrated that we end by acquiring the same dispositions and thoughts as those required of the Apostles by Our Lord; dispositions of Faith, Purity, and brotherly Love, of Perfection and Charity.

These thoughts may perhaps be of use to you when going to Communion. Our whole life should be one continual act of thanksgiving for a gift so great. The Apostles only partially understood the immense gift they had received; with the exception of John they all subsequently left their Master and fled. The Holy Spirit had not yet come down upon them.

But we certainly ought to appreciate and understand the immensity of the gift we have received because the Holy Spirit has come to us and because we live always in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament and under its influence. We ought to show how much we realize Our Lord's great love for us, by our fervor and our carefulness in carrying out His good pleasure.

May each Communion day of ours resemble the one we would have spent had we actually been present at the Last Supper. - The Sacrifice and the Victim are one and the same. "As often as you do this, you do it in commemoration of Me".