



January 25th, 1880

TO MEDITATE ON THE WORDS OF THE OFFICE

Saint Marie Eugenie of Jesus

My dear Daughters,

We celebrate these days the feast of innumerable martyrs, and in order to have a greater devotion to the Divine Office, it is good to meditate on its different parts - for example, the hymns, the prayers, so that when one repeats this hymn or prayer one develops a special devotion. Who among us has not pondered on a passage of the *Ave Maris Stella* or on one or the other of the prayers which we have so often on our lips?

These past days, I was struck by a beautiful passage in the hymn of the Office for a martyr:

Deus tuorum militum

Sors et corona praemium

“Sors”, that is to say that there was a choice, a destiny laid before this soul so that she would be called to martyrdom. Taking it in another sense “sors” also means that God, who becomes the crown and reward of the martyr, was his portion and his share here below, that is to say, that the martyr, having followed the road opened to

him by Christ, having shared his life, his sacrifice and his sufferings, reached the crown.

If we relate this thought to the destiny of a virgin consecrated to God, we shall see that we can, likewise, apply to her this passage: "Sors et corona praemium." Her lot here below should be Jesus Christ, perhaps, not to the extremity of the sacrifice of Calvary, but her lot here below should be to follow Jesus Christ. He has chosen her so that she may resemble him in her thoughts, in her ways, in her conduct, in her life; in a word, in order that in her may be recognized as having been chosen by Christ and that she belongs to Him entirely. Furthermore, the lot, the share, the consolation, the treasure of a virgin consecrated to God should be Jesus Christ. She should attach herself to no other consolation nor seek no other treasure; Christ should be the only lot she has chosen and towards whom she is always turned.

It is a great thing to be a virgin and consecrated to God. In the world there are many who keep the crown of virginity, but the consecration that is added to this virginity keeps them as something holy, priceless unto the day of eternity so that God Himself will be their reward and their crown. I address to you just these few words. From time to time, meditate by yourselves, either one part or the other of the Divine Office. There you will certainly find thoughts which will raise you above that which is of the earth, and it would be very much in keeping with the spirit of the Assumption to draw from the Divine Office the source of your devotion.
