



6 June 1875

TO WORK CONSTANTLY AT ONE'S PERFECTION

Saint Marie Eugenie of Jesus

My dear Daughters,

We have just celebrated the great feasts of the love of Our Lord for men - the feast of the Blessed Sacrament, the feast of the Sacred Heart. We must keep the disposition of giving more to God after these feasts that recall to us all that He has given us.

A religious contracts a great obligation when she gives herself to God. Having embraced freely a state of perfection, she must work without ceasing at her perfection, and must tend thereto without ever stopping this work through discouragement, coming from the thought that she is not capable, that she is not worthy of God. We must, on the contrary, make an effort to render to God by the desire for perfection, by the unceasing aspiration towards this good that is so agreeable to Him, that which God has given us by this love and with which He has filled us with His best gifts.

Undoubtedly, one works at one's perfection when one lives in obedience, according to one's rules and with the desire to observe them better everyday. But, everybody knows, each one of us can recall having felt at a certain time in one's souls aspirations still more ardent to be united to God, to serve Him very well, to sanctify all of one's action, to practice such or such a virtue more perfectly: a more perfect charity, a more perfect obedience, a more perfect patience, a more perfect humility.

It is necessary to revive these aspirations by the thought of the love that God shows us. We must ask ourselves: "Why do I not wish to be as perfect as possible, to practice all the virtues that present themselves to me, and thus to advance always, to excite myself to give to God everything that a soul who loves Him can give Him and to pass over all the obstacles? God is always ready to help me. He who comes to me, who dwells in the depth of my soul is strong enough to carry me through all the obstacles, through my temptations, my weaknesses and my miseries since He can do everything."

I have sometimes quoted to you the words of a priest who, being pursued in '93 by the emissaries of the Revolution, fled carrying the Blessed Sacrament. Having reached the shores of the Rhone, he hesitated for a moment then told himself: "He whom I carry carried the world. He is strong enough to carry me to the other side" and having thrown himself into the river, he suddenly found himself on the other side.

Well, there are moments like this in the spiritual life in which we have to tell ourselves: “He whom I carry within me carries the world, He can very well carry me higher to the perfection that He demands of me, to such an effort that I believe impossible.” Then the soul encouraging itself, hoping, wishing to love, giving all that it can give, finds in itself the remembrance of the Sacred gift that it has received at the altar.

This thought is the force that makes us tend to perfection and that attains it up to a certain degree before the end of this life and that God wishes to reward by eternal glory.

