



Saint Marie Eugenie of Jesus

April 24st, 1886

What tears did our Lord promise to console?

My dear daughters,

Today, Holy Saturday, we are caught between the tears of yesterday and the joy that the Savior's resurrection will bring to the entire Church of God tonight.

It was in anticipation that we sang the Alleluia at Mass, and that the bells resumed their voice to greet the Risen Christ¹. These holy ceremonies should not take place until eleven o'clock in the evening. We are neither strong enough nor fervent enough to sustain the holy vigils that our fathers once observed. Holy Saturday nevertheless remains the day of the tears of the Most Holy Virgin, and the day on which pious souls are invited to honor, accompany, and console Our Lady in her desolations.

Blessed are those who weep, said our Lord, *they shall be comforted*². At the foot of the cross, the Blessed Virgin wept: she wept over the sins of men and the sufferings of her Divine Son. So that our tears may have some merit, and so that they may flow with the hope that God will console them, let us keep them, Sisters, for this twofold reason: our sins and the sorrows of Jesus Christ.

Weep for your sins and the sins of others, if not with tears in your eyes (it is not always up to us to shed them), then at least with tears from your heart! Detest every offense against God, great or small, all the roots that sin has in us. Detest all public sins, all social crimes, all scandals. Weep for so many souls exposed to evil or living in evil. Weep also for the sins of our children: these are tears well used. To those who weep thus with Mary, we can say: *Blessed are those who weep, for they shall be comforted*.

Sin is the cause of all evil: it has caused man to leave this earthly paradise. It brings pain and death into the world. It is sin that opened purgatory and dug hell. Yet, should I say this in front of people consecrated to God? We do not have a sufficient sense of sin; we do not have a sufficiently great contrition for sin!

¹ Alleluia was sung on Holy Saturday morning. It was only under Pius XII that the Easter Vigil was moved to the evening.

² Mt. 5:5

You have read in the life of Saint Catherine of Siena that, having prayed to God to grant her confessor, Blessed Raymond of Capua, the greatest grace He could grant him, God gave him such lively contrition for sin that his tears began to flow abundantly, and flowed with bitterness of heart for twenty-four hours. This was a choice grace that Saint Catherine of Siena had obtained for him from Jesus Christ. Let us often ask God, Sisters, to grant us a profound horror of sin and a habitual contrition for the slightest faults. This is what we must desire and aspire to, every time we approach the Sacrament of Penance.

There is a second kind of tears that we can never shed enough: those we shed over the sufferings of Our Lord. Here too, the Blessed Virgin is our model. How she wept, how she suffered! It seems as if she had exhausted the source of tears. The holy women were with her on Calvary: what an honor for us!

Truly, Good Friday is a beautiful day for women! They were there beside the Blessed Virgin, weeping and suffering with Our Lord. On the Way of Sorrows, it was a woman who eagerly, freely and voluntarily presented herself to wipe away the tears and blood that veiled the Savior's Face, while a man, Simon of Cyrene, had to be forced to help Jesus carry His Cross. The daughters of Jerusalem also followed Jesus Christ, weeping and lamenting. If Our Lord seems to reproach them, believe nevertheless that these voluntary and free tears, these cries of pain have been blessed and sanctified. They have become for them the source of eternal consolation.

God will bless, sanctify, and console your tears in the same way, my dear daughters. Those shed by sin will be consoled by contrition. There is indeed great consolation in feeling that one hates one's sins. I call upon your experience. Have you not all experienced this joy? In youth, at the moment of a general confession, one is often touched in a particular way. Are we not then very happy?

As for the tears shed over the sufferings of Our Lord, these too will be consoled. Today, the Blessed Virgin saw Our Lord radiant with the light of eternity.

This poor broken Body, which yesterday bore the marks of nails, whips, thorns, and which had been returned inanimate to her arms, here It is. She sees It resurrected, all radiant with light and brilliance! Each of Its wounds has become the light of the world. She sees in them the holiness of souls, the perfection and glory of the Church, all the good that will be done forever in the world. Can you imagine Mary's joy, and how she receives from that hour onwards the consolation of her tears?

After her, Mary Magdalene received it, and the holy women who had first announced the resurrection to the disciples. Our Lord did not even want to refuse this supreme consolation to those who had abandoned Him. Saint Peter had denied Him. But the Savior's gaze upon him had caused a well of tears to spring from his eyes, which eventually carved furrows on his cheeks. The apostles also fled at the hour of the Passion. They hid in the caves surrounding Jerusalem. Perhaps they later returned to find the Most Holy Virgin and sought support and consolation from this Mother of mercy. Our Lord, forgetting the apostles' infidelity, manifested Himself to them with His glorious wounds, bringing them peace and forgiveness. He then appeared to the disciples of Emmaus. We will see in these beautiful

Easter Gospels how the Savior, in His many appearances, comes to bring light and joy to all those who have wept.

From this, Sisters, I will draw a very practical conclusion: make sure never to waste your tears, since they are so precious. Always use them for contrition and love.

Let it be over the wounds of Our Lord, over His sufferings, over His anguish that you shed tears: "My Jesus, it is to You that I wish to give them, it is over the offenses committed against You, it is over Your sorrows that I wish to shed them, in order to console them, in order to see You in Your glory, and that from Your Divine Wounds may descend upon me streams of grace, holiness, and blessings."