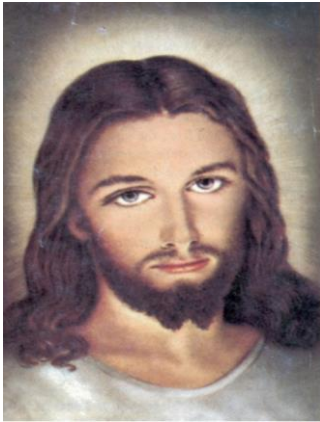


Thoughts and Reflections

Volume 3

From the writings of Mamma Carmela

Jesus, I trust in You!



THE IMAGE OF THE MERCIFUL JESUS

“Write my daughter, you will be the apostle of my Merciful Love. I will bless you. I will shower on you abundant graces and great gifts. I will bless the families who expose my Image. Speak to Me often and invoke Me thus:

**‘Merciful Jesus, we trust in You:
have mercy on us, and on the whole world.’ ”**

Milan, April 20, 1968

The merciful Jesus in the excessive goodness of his Heart promises that: *“Whoever venerates with love and devotion in his house my Divine Image will be preserved from the chastisement. In the same way as the ancient Hebrews marked their houses with a cross made with the blood of the paschal lamb and were spared by the exterminating Angel, so it will be in these sad times for those who will have honoured and exposed my Image.”*

“I have invited you to be apostles of my Divine Face and I have promised you that with that Image I will touch the hearts of sinners and I will draw everyone to Me.”

Milan, January 25, 1972

“My children, you all want mercy for everyone. Well then, become interpreters of our desires. Do so that in every family together with my Divine Face may enter the practice of the Rosary, just as it is, as the holy Virgin wanted it, as the saints, the virgins, the martyrs, the great and the small of every age practiced it.”

Milan, May 4, 1972



Front cover: Picture of Christ as the Divine Mercy. Painted by Professor Hyla of Cracow, Poland. The Picture is venerated in the Church of St. Mary’s Star of the Sea, West Melbourne.

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3

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AUSTRALIA

*The thoughts, the reflections
and the meditations
in this booklet,
were inspired to a soul.*

*They are, however,
addressed to all those souls,
who, desirous to love the Lord,
seek to put into practice
his teachings and
to live the Christian life
more perfectly.*

*May Jesus
bless these pages
and those who read them
with the desire
to improve themselves,
granting the help
of his grace.*

Cenacle of the Divine Mercy
Viale Lunigiana, 30 — 20125 Milan, Italy

Non-Commercial Edition

Table of Contents

Spiritual mercy	1
"Counselling the doubtful"	1
"Admonishing sinners"	3
"Consoling the afflicted"	6
"Forgiving offenses"	8
"Bearing wrongs patiently"	11
"Praying for the living and the dead"	13
The Church	16
Poverty	19
Perseverance in good	23
Rule of life	25
Holy Mass	27
Trust in Providence	31
Learning to read	32
Do not have too many desires	34
Adhering to the desires of others	36
Increasing Grace	37
Removing the idols	38
The value of suffering	39
Taking life as it comes	40
Making oneself humble	41
To give witness to Jesus	43
I am in you	43
Overcome yourself	44
Not to be forgotten	45
Loving recollection	47
Preparing for Communion	48
Observing the Law	50
Joy	51

A huge hospital	53
The future life	54
I am a thirsty one.....	56
Draw near to Me	57
Slander	59
Scandal.....	62
Programme of life	64
Resume courage.....	66
Trust in Providence.....	68
Promises to the priests devoted to Mary.....	71
Procreation	75
The Cross made to measure	79
Envy	81
The example of the Saints.....	83
The Heart of Mary	86
The examination of conscience.....	90
A major disaster	92
The true love of God.....	94
The family.....	96
Qualities of the Church: poverty.....	102
Holiness.....	105
Unity	109
Universality.....	114
Apostolicity.....	116
Custodian of truth	119
Generosity	121
Padre Pio has done his work	124
Not whosoever shall have said: "Lord, Lord ...".....	125
Faith and prayer	127
Preparing for Communion	130
Preparing for Confession	132

Controlling your character 134
Do not judge 137
The sorrows of Mary 139
Bride to Joseph 141
The refusal of Bethlehem 144
The anchor of salvation 146
In the greatest poverty 147
The hard exile 150
The loss of Jesus 152
All the virtues to a heroic degree 154
Your tears will be wiped away 157
I am in glory 158
Do not excuse yourself from work 159
Pray for the Pope 160
To love suffering 163
I do not want to stay idle 164
Do not lose serenity 165
St. Michael 167

SPIRITUAL MERCY

My daughter, the lesson will be important for you and for those who will listen to it.

If the works of mercy concerning the body have a very great importance, no less however, are those that concern the spirit, the intellect and the will. One attends to them with prayer, enlightened counsel, when the inspiration of these good works comes from charity, for the good that you desire to do for the brother who lives next to you.

"COUNSELLING THE DOUBTFUL"

June 24, 1968

My daughter, listen to me, I will speak to you about the work of mercy performed by those who instruct the ignorant.

I was called the Teacher, the divine Teacher, because it was exactly my mission that of teaching and instructing. I talked to people of every class and every age. Children listened to Me ecstatic and adults followed Me forgetting food.

I stayed back with friends and with enemies, with the just and with sinners, with the sick and with the healthy, and to all I taught the way to Heaven. *"I am the Way, the Truth and the Life: he who believes in Me will never perish,"* I would say.

To my apostles I gave a mandate to continue my mission saying, *"Go and teach all nations."* And the Church, custodian of Truth, continues this mission through my ministers and

instructs all peoples.

Blessed are those who follow up this mandate with faith and love! Blessed are those who after having taken in the things of God at my school, feel the desire to make them known also to others and try to become teachers of the Christian life.

My children, be eager to learn my teachings. Do not neglect the religious instruction, which comes to you through my Ministers. Hear my lessons that I give you directly, for I speak to the hearts of men and then, in turn, instruct others.

You, mother, do not forget that the lessons that you give your children will not be forgotten, even if it will seem to you that, at a certain point in life, your teachings have been a failure. Fear not: they will blossom again later, perhaps in adulthood or old age, and will not get lost.

The most important thing is that you are consistent between saying and doing, that you teach more by example than by word, even if you have to necessarily use it.

Religious instruction

Let Me now turn to that category of people who have chosen as profession teaching in schools.

It really is a mission, not a profession that puts the individual in contact with the soul of the child, of the youth and the adolescent to talk to his intelligence and to his will. It is a delicate and divine mission that mirrors mine.

The teachings received on school desks are never forgotten. The behaviour of the teacher comes to be a part of

those memories that even in later age either cheer us up or sadden us.

If teachers were aware of the delicateness of their task, how whole heartedly they would carry it out, with what preparation also moral and spiritual they would attend to it!

Few realize the greatness of their mission, which many exercise only for profit while, if well done, it is the daily exercise of a work of mercy important and delicate.

Pray, my daughter, for teachers, whether teachers or university professors, that they may behave wisely and Christian like in their teaching and not transform the chair into a pulpit from which is taught error and many times sin.

He who will have taught my doctrine will shine in Heaven like a star and whoever has dedicated himself to teaching, even of the secular sciences, with love and dedication, will accumulate a lot of merits, because he will transform his life in the continued practice of a precious work of mercy: "Instructing the ignorant."

"ADMONISHING SINNERS"

June 27, 1968

Daughter, listen to my advice and put it into practice. Now I will speak to you about the diligence with which you have to occupy yourself with those who make mistakes. First of all you must try to behave yourself according to the Law of the Lord, then make sure to have light through prayer. Then here you are to practise the work of mercy that I announce to you:

"Admonishing sinners."

Your life must be exemplary in order to be able to admonish others; however, given the human fragility whereby you all are sinners, you will be able to accomplish this work if you put in so much humility and sweetness in doing it, and if you are also disposed to receive the admonitions when you make mistakes.

Remember that admonishing does not mean preaching, nor getting excited, nor ill-treating, but sweetly advising, showing displeasure, inviting to desist from the evil and bad life, for God's sake, and if a human affection binds you, also for your sake.

It is not that acting for human motives has value for Heaven, but the sinner might find the right path to decide not to sin out of love and fear of God.

So take to heart this cause of mine. You know that I love sinners since I came to earth *"not for the just, but for the sinners"* and their salvation presses Me so strongly that I would be ready to renew the Passion in order to save them.

I am grateful for what you will do for them, and I confirm to you what my Augustine used to say: *"He who saves a soul has predestined his."* I explain why to you. Whoever obtains salvation with the help of prayers and counsels of a person, how will they in the other life forget this gift?

There, where everything is perfection, the duty of appreciation and gratitude will be practised in an admirable way. You can imagine with how much love and how insistently

will be invoked the salvation of the soul who did all it could for his.

What I recommend is that you always act with great love of God and neighbour; that you do not want to impose your will, but that it be the desire to bring souls to God that makes you act and speak.

I repeat to you, however, be humble in giving your warnings and if it is the case, propose to correct yourself too for your faults, not to hear yourself told, "*Physician, heal thyself.*"

Act with goodness, with understanding, with trust, with constancy without ever thinking that there is nothing more to do, because be certain that when you can no longer act and do, I intervene with my grace and you only have to continue to pray and to love.

Therefore, admonish each other, my children, for you are all sinners; love each other so intensely as to be ready to sacrifice your lives for each other.

If you care about the salvation of your loved ones, and it seems impossible to you to be able to get and obtain their conversion, entrust them to my Mother. She, who is the refuge of sinners, will save them for you, I promise you, to the extent that you will love and implore her.

"CONSOLING THE AFFLICTED"

June 28, 1968

My daughter, the lesson that in this moment I will give you continues the brief reflections made on the works of mercy. In fact I will speak to you about "Consoling the afflicted."

Nobody in the world is exempt from pain and from the cross, and everybody wants to receive comfort and help in these moments.

I myself, who was an example in all in my mortal life, under the weight of pain, turning to the Father to be freed from it by Him, if that had been possible, was comforted by an angel.

I would like for you all to be angels of consolation for each other in the world. I would like that in approaching those who suffer, for everyone of you to learn to say to the other those words so effective that open up the horizon to show that suffering is not an end in itself, but a means of salvation and seed of glory.

How many souls would not have found the right path, who have instead discovered in pain, and perhaps exactly by means of that person who has had the goodness to participate in the pain, and to weep with those who wept.

Do not be selfish, my daughter. Do not think that since you also are having your share of suffering and worries, you can close in on yourself and think of yourself. Remember that to everyone their cross seems great and that, if you forget yourself to think of others, the joy and the consolation that you

give will be yours first of all.

Open your eyes and heart well, my daughter, to see if around you, someone is eager to hear your word. Be generous.

Mind well, however, that you must lift up those who perhaps are in despair, do not knock them down. You will need to have words that take away from the heart every bad feeling against God and men.

You will invite to not judge those who perhaps have been the cause of the evil, but attribute it solely to the permission of God, who can draw good out of evil.

If you can, invite to prayer those who suffer. Prayer brings you the comfort of God, but if you feel that your words are vain, promise to help the person suffering, praying for her yourself.

Do it then really, since the help that you can give is always little if it is not validated by the help of God.

Have recourse, in this work that transforms you into an angel of consolation, to the Consolatrix of the afflicted, that she be both your guide, your teacher and takes your place in this exercise of charity so precious.

Giving a hand to those who suffer, in the moral sense is sometimes much more precious than giving millions; sometimes a word is enough to turn away from an irreparable evil to which desperation can lead.

May it never happen that, after hearing the culmination of

a tragedy, you have to say: *"Maybe that person, who had passed by me and who was exasperated, if I had tried to console her, she would not have ended so."*

Do unto others as you would have them do to you. Behave this way so that all, at one point in your life, will have to send out your SOS invoking someone for help and if you do all you can for others, they will do all they can for you.

In the case that men were to remain deaf to your invocation, God would gather it, to comfort you and to repay you for the good you accomplished.

"FORGIVING OFFENSES"

June 29, 1968

Dear daughter, here at our usual meeting for the instruction on the works of mercy. I will speak to you talk about "Forgiving offenses."

It is one of the most important things: it is not optional, but mandatory; it is not reserved for some people, but to all.

I assure you that it is a very important thing: either you forgive and the door of salvation is opened to you, or you do not forgive and you are hopelessly lost, since the Father will not forgive you your sins. It is therefore a work of mercy that all must practise with love and great care.

Always remember what I said: *"Let not the sun set on your anger."* On the contrary: *"If you come to the altar to make your offering, and you remember that someone has something*

against you, leave your offering there, go first to make peace with your brother, and then come and offer your gifts to God."

I let you observe that the initiative of forgiving must come from you, even if others hang on to resentment. God sees everything and is pleased with this generosity and humility.

Never act therefore, out of pique by saying that it is not up to you, that he who has received the insult is you. What matters is that you bring back harmony and serenity where there is discord, and for love to be established where there is hatred.

How many families fighting, because you do not practise this marvellous work of mercy, which encloses in itself many virtues: humility, charity and goodness above all, that makes you like the Father, who always forgives ...

To my ministers, when I instituted the sacrament of Confession, I said: *"Go and forgive."* The apostles asked Me: "How many times do we have to forgive?". And I replied, *"Seventy times seven"*, that is to say always.

If, therefore, all men must always be forgiven by God, they also must forgive their peers always, this being an essential condition for being forgiven.

I beg you, my daughter, if you do not want to make useless, and perhaps even sinful or sacrilegious your Confession and your Communions: you must forgive with all your heart to the point of forgetting the offenses, of whatever kind they be.

This condition of your forgiveness subjected to what you give to others, has to be for you of great comfort in this life, of great certainty in the hope of the future life, and of great

peace.

And is it not perhaps worthwhile to renounce self-love, in order to possess such gifts?

Always forgive, my daughter, up to forgetting, if you can, the offense received, as I do who, when I forgive I forget, and up to praying for those who have offended you, even as I do, who keeps on filling my creatures with gifts, who continually hurl themselves against Me.

Remember that the sower of hatred is the evil one, and do not allow him to get the upper hand over you.

Even if I had every reason to complain about the behaviour of your fellow men, you by imitating Me, who said from the top of the Cross: *"Father, forgive them for they know not what they do"*, will be able to have the same excuses for your offenders. *"They do not know what they are doing, they do evil unwittingly, they think they do good ..."*

How good are these words and worthy of reward! Every martyr has uttered them, after Me, from Stephen to the martyrs of your days, and it is an invitation that my Holy Mother and I continually repeat to men who want to be our followers.

Love one another, forgive one another, help one another, because this is the will of God.

I give you now a recommendation. Try to put always peace and harmony everywhere, if you happen to find the opportunity to settle rifts: do it with great goodness and charity and you will give Me so much pleasure.

Imitate the example of the Saints who, challenging external

dangers and winning with the help of God their own weakness, learned to make peace among the men whom they approached.

Peace is a gift of God that is gained with good will. What currency more valuable than this will you want to use to purchase a great and indispensable good?

Peace, may my peace be always with you and among you.

"BEARING WRONGS PATIENTLY"

June 30, 1968

Dear daughter, I will continue my lessons of speaking to you about the work of mercy that many ... make others practise: "Putting up with troublesome people."

Do not forget that you are all imperfect and imperfections crop up in your life, in the way of speaking, of behaving, of seeing things, of expressing one's opinions.

What is defective is not pleasing not only to God, infinite perfection, but not even to men who, while not possessing perfection, desire it in others.

If you were all perfect, it would be easy to live together.

How lovely it will be to live in Paradise where nothing less than perfect enters!

As long as you are on this earth, there will be for you the cross in this sense: putting up with a character different from yours, accepting the inevitable clashes of one who thinks differently from you, accepting to have your heart in tears, and having to laugh with those who are happy, seeing your

affairs going in reverse, and having to rejoice in the happiness of those who recount fabulous success.

It is all annoying and a nuisance that would make life unbearable without the intervention of that blessed work of mercy of which I spoke to you, and which, having charity as foundation, makes long-suffering easy for you.

I told you that it has charity as foundation, but it is comprised also of patience, humility, obedience, and, necessarily, understanding, generosity and a goodness that has no limits.

If you put together, in fact, these qualities and virtues, you see that the troublesome people disappear and next to you, you find people with whom you feel much pleasure to speak and live.

Remember that as much as you try to remove your defects, there will always be one left behind which will make you unpleasant to others. Often think of this so that, in your turn, you can sympathize with the imperfections or the real defects of your neighbour, and not only put up with him, but love him as he is, with his character, his personality and his deficiencies.

All this do always for God's sake, because the Heavenly Father wants you to love one another; if you love, pity and bear one another for his sake, you give a divine value to a human action and you make it therefore, worthy of an eternal reward.

Imitate my example, my daughter, though being God and possessing all the virtues and capabilities to an infinite

degree, I adapted to everyone, enduring avarice and Judas' betrayal, infidelity and Peter's human respect, the hypocrisy of the Pharisees, the pride, malice, wickedness and ingratitude of a whole nation who for three years had followed Me. They had seen the miracles, they had seen at first hand my power, my wisdom and my merciful goodness, without understanding anything of it.

Make yourself all things to all to gain all to God. This is your mission and that of every true Christian.

"PRAYING FOR THE LIVING AND THE DEAD"

July 1, 1968

My daughter, here I am to complete the lessons on the works of goodness and mercy that you can and must perform in order to implement charity, the queen virtue indispensable in the Christian life.

Now I will tell you how you can help the whole world of the living and all the deceased who are waiting to reach the blessed Homeland, "Pray for the living and the dead."

First of all you must know that you can be alive while being dead and you can be dead while being alive. I explain to you.

You weep as dead those who leave the earth, but in reality if the life of grace is in them, they begin the true life, the one that will never end.

On the contrary, you see wandering the streets many people who believe they are living beings, but if you were able to see their soul, you would be frightened. They are the

real walking corpses. This is why the work of mercy is not directed only to the good you can do for persons who live near you and those whom you accompany to the cemetery, but to all the living on earth.

Let your heart and your prayer become universal, as the Church is.

Reach out praying for all kinds of people and let all feel with your help the ardour of your charity and may they bless the Lord. May the wanderers return to the fold; the dead rise again to the life of grace; the good increase their faith and their heart expand more and more; the sufferers feel close to themselves the Cyrenian who helps them to carry the cross.

May all feel like a fresh divine dew that bathes them with grace. Here's what you can do with your prayer, dear children.

I told you that if you have faith and say to a mountain: "*Cast yourself into the sea*", it will obey you. I say to you: Have faith and pray. May your faith be the motive of your prayers, and I promise you that with your prayer you will transform the world.

Prayer disarms Me. Before the man who prays, the Father is moved, forgives, grants, withdraws his heavy hand from the world and has compassion.

Daughter, remember the vision of Jacob's ladder uniting earth to Heaven and the angels going up and down on it? They, the angels, brought incessantly to God his prayers and brought back to Jacob the graces of the Lord.

It is always the case in the world. Woe if there is no prayer.

It is your strength and the weakness of God.

Now in the world one prays little, too little and that is why things go wrong.

One thinks about transforming, about finding better systems than those taught by Me, and one ends up by not praying anymore. One thinks about abolishing the formulas, the same ones that I taught and used.

One wants to do without what my Mother has taught and still teaches in all of her apparitions on earth.

The Rosary is boring, they say. It is monotonous and for the young not good enough.

So having eliminated the things taught by us, one begins prayer with an act of arrogance. What will you get?

It is true that the formula must be accompanied by the mind and the heart, but I assure you that it will be a big help to you. It will be like the rail on which you will make the mind and the heart run.

The Church herself, in liturgical prayer, does she not use the formulas that are always the same and repetitious?

Do not be afraid of making a mistake following my teachings. Pray, raising to God your whole being. Even your body, which is also God's, let it be stretched out towards Him.

If it is not possible for you to spend your life with hands joined (oh blessed hands joined that are disappearing from the face of the earth!), if it is not possible for men, taken up by many things in life, to spend the day in an attitude of prayer, there are, however, certain times when God has the right to

have adoration, invocation, thanksgiving and supplication from his children.

Blessed are those families where they meet for morning and evening prayer, where I am invited with a blessing to participate at the table. I assure you that I will repay this invitation to make you participate at the eternal banquet.

Now I give you some advice: put in first place, in your prayers, the persons who do evil to you: those for whom you feel antipathy, not to your liking ... then your merit will be doubled, and this prepares your heart for forgiveness and charity.

Always join your prayers to mine, which I raise up continually to the Father from the Tabernacle, to those of my Mother and of the whole Church.

By virtue of the Communion of Saints you will give to your prayer an infinite worth, and every spiritual elevation of yours becomes a true work of mercy.

THE CHURCH

July 3, 1968

My daughter, in this lesson I will speak to you about my Church, the most beautiful gift that I have made to men.

She is my very sweet bride. She is beautiful, no stains and no wrinkles. She is the boat that moves quickly on the stormy sea, bringing to safety the sailors.

I am in the boat, but the helmsman is Peter. Outside of her there is no salvation. The establishment of the Church came

forth from my torn Heart from the top of the Cross, and from the desire to draw all men to Me.

When you, mothers, want to measure the love of your children for you and ask one of them, "*How much do you love me?*", you see the little one stretch out his arms and form a horizontal line and hear yourself told: "*This much.*" Well then, I, the Man-God, have exactly imitated the children. And if you ask me how much I loved you and all my children, I also answer you stretching out my arms: "*This much.*" In a horizontal line I let my hands be nailed, so that all would be able to measure my love, which could not and cannot be bigger than that.

If you then ask your child a little more grown up, how much he loves you, he replies to you: "*As much as from the earth to Heaven.*" Well, children, I have loved you so: as much as from Heaven to earth to bring all to Heaven.

Always, over the centuries, by means of my most grandiose establishment, my Ministers stretch out their arms during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, which mystically renews my death on the Cross, and call all to Me.

Holy and without blemish is my Church, even if many faithful who are a part of her are not worthy of her. Holy because founded by Me, because holy are her laws, her doctrine and her teachings. Holy because she calls continually everyone to holiness, and because in her there are the means to be sanctified and saved eternally.

The Church is holy because she also calls you to be sanctified personally, and invites you with the sweetness of the Mother, with the Divine Wisdom that you receive

continually from the Holy Spirit, with the strength of grace that He gives you, to welcome his invitation to practise the virtues, to flee sin in order to reach holiness.

He who listens to the voice of the Church listens to the voice of God, never forget that. It is true that many of my Ministers do not correspond to their vocation and do not think about practising what they teach. This is very painful for Me, but it takes nothing away from the holiness of my Church as Judas took nothing away with his betrayal and Peter took nothing with his perjury.

A warm invitation

And now permit Me to address an invitation to you, the warmest possible, to pray for my Priests. The Holy Orders that they receive takes away nothing of their nature and their weakness. Their tasks are very serious, and if the graces they receive are immense also, the lack of response makes them unable to live up to the demands of their ministry.

Pray for them therefore, and never judge them; help them with advice, if they accept it, but more than all, help them with prayer and sacrifice. It is a duty of all Christians this, as it is a duty of gratitude to pray for those who do good and for those who give material life.

Their power is so great that even if they are dead to the life of grace, they can give it to others; even if they were in sin, they can absolve; even if I, Jesus, were not present in their hearts, they can make Me present on the altar with the words of consecration.

Pray, children, pray for them so that they do not succumb

to the temptations of the evil one, so that they do not follow the ways of the world, so that they match their vocation, and be holy in order to call by their example and their words, all men to holiness.

And you, my daughter, collaborate with the Church through the apostolate. You too are living Church, and you have to know your duties as such. Make sure that the divine life always circulates in you.

"I am the vine, you are the branches."

A dry branch is cut down and thrown into the fire. If you want to live my life, you have to be united to Me. Cultivate it and increase this life in you through the Sacraments and prayer. Spread it through the apostolate of example and with good works, besides that of the word.

Willingly sacrifice yourself for the sake of your God, who stretched out his arms on a cross in order to better show you all his love. Stretch out your arms too, and I will embrace you so as to make one unique immolation with you for the salvation of the human race.

POVERTY

July 4, 1968

My daughter, to the honour of my servant Francis, patron of your Homeland, today I will talk to you about the virtue of poverty: one of the three virtues that religious practise with a vow, but which makes those who live it so pleasing to my heart, whether forced or chosen out of love.

I could tell you a beautiful exclamation: "*Blessed are the poor*", as opposed to that of: "*Woe to the rich*", and assure you that just as it is so difficult for the rich to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven, likewise it is easy for the poor to enter.

You have been told in fact: "*Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of the heavens.*" But I want to give you a little explanation that will clarify your thoughts about poverty.

It is the complete detachment of the heart from all that is material, up to barely using it (also in cases of necessity), for themselves and using it in favour of the neighbour as if it were common property.

See how difficult the practice of this virtue is, for I assure you that there are people who have nothing and are so eager for wealth, as to long for it as the most important thing in life, as if life was not worth more than what is material.

Wealth can be a gift from God if considered as a way of life for one's self and for others, but it can become an idol when you set your heart on it, and make it a private property in the true sense of the word.

Unfortunately, the god gold rules in the world, binding people's hearts, making them slaves of themselves, clouding minds, so as to push them to carry out horrendous crimes in order to possess it. I assure you that if the true God was loved by men as much as riches are loved, the world in quick time would be holy.

How I rejoice in those persons who are like the sea, they receive water from all sides for distribution to all, and to make all enjoy their benefits!

Unfortunately, the love of riches has taken not only the worldly, who try to accumulate as if earthly life was eternal, but also the religious who, with the pretext many times of extending their works, turn religious life into a constant search for material goods, so assiduous as to forget that vocation is putting one's self at the service of God, it is to obey the evangelical counsels of Him who commanded: *"Carry no purse and no bag."* Although this phrase can be interpreted figuratively, it is certainly an invitation to love and practise poverty.

To save the soul

With this I do not want to condemn work and security although it is more valuable to trust in Providence and put one's self at his service. What is to be blamed is that tenacity in the search for material goods which sometimes, even if they seem to be desired for the good of others, conceal the snares of the evil one, flatter one's self-love and, bringing excessive material worries and excessive work, make one forget what I have repeated to you in my mortal life: *"Only one thing is necessary, to save the soul. All the rest is nothing."*

Love, my children, the poor of all the world. To love them means to help them. Love them praying for them, in order that finding themselves in need their faith may not fail. Pray that they may appreciate God's predilection towards them.

And help them materially that they might not despair, feeling like abandoned. Aid them, do not be selfish. The joy of those who give is far greater than that of those who receive, and worthwhile to experience it every day.

If you become generous, you will always find something to give and people to benefit.

Give what's yours to make others happy. Give with love, with respect as him who willingly shares with his brother that which God has given him. Give so that the persons benefited by you may see, through you, the Father who loves them, and bless Him.

Give out of love, lest the Lord might detach you by force from your goods in order not to be compelled to condemn you. Give while you are alive, in order not to arrive empty-handed before your supreme Judge of spiritual gifts that you can get with the exercise of charity. Remember that alms-giving covers the multitude of sins and serves to make you a lot of friends who will pray for you.

Love the poor who are my favourites and comfort them. Make every effort to relieve their miseries, especially by providing them work, and those real aids that are not reduced to an offering, but which ensures the food.

Do not let them miss your smile, the good word and the goodness of welcoming them, because he who welcomes them welcomes Me, who was born in a stable and lived in poverty, so as to be able to say: *"The foxes have their dens, but the Son of man has nowhere to lay his head."*

Help the poor lest it happens to you what happened to the rich man Dives, selfish towards the poor man Lazarus.

PERSEVERANCE IN GOOD

July 5, 1968

My daughter, the lesson you are about to begin will be a precious teaching for all those who wish to reach the goal.

I have said to you: *"Not he who puts his hand to the plough and looks back, will be rewarded, but he who gets right to the end of his work."*

Perseverance in good is a gift that you must ask Me for continually, because I assure you that without Me you can do nothing.

To do good, to pray, to act in accordance with the Law, are things that, apparently simple, are instead difficult and my grace is needed to do them.

Also to pray, I have said to you, because prayer is a divine action, is a conversation with Heaven, and I confirm to you that you cannot even say "Jesus" without my help.

So it is for the good and the good deeds which ought to fill your life. You cannot perform them without my help, and you have to be so united with Me in doing them that it is I myself doing them in you.

To observe my Law you need my help; even if, *"My yoke is sweet and its burden light,"* to follow Me is always a carrying of the cross.

Mine is the way of humiliation, of annihilation, of contradiction, even if it is the discovery of truth, of light and the conquest of joy and holiness. Persevering on this path and following in my footsteps is difficult, and I would say almost

impossible, if to the aid of your good will there was not my Grace.

Perseverance in good requires a certain heroism because in life not everything goes smoothly. It is a test: therefore, obstacles must not be lacking. You have seen many times some sporting competitions and gymnastics. If there were no obstacles, what reward would the winner have? The greater the difficulties, the greater is merit and greater the victory.

If however you think that the crosses and trials will last a lifetime, you will be tempted to go back, to stop and even despair. Never think therefore, too far ahead.

Take life with serenity, day by day. Live from day to day. How do you know if it is the last one? Propose to yourself every day to want to be good, and persevering in good into the evening and so every day. I like those who live from day to day.

Turn your gaze continually to your crucified Teacher and He will be a spur to you.

Turn to my Mother who is the Mother of holy perseverance, to her who met and overcame all kinds of ordeals whereby she can be an example and guide to you in everything. Ask her to help you day to day to progress in virtue, to remain faithful to your intentions, to persevere right to the end so that you can say with Paul: *"I have fought my battle, I have passed the test, I have won the prize."*

So they can say the martyrs of all times, the virgins, the mothers filled with faith and love, the confessors of the faith who reached Heaven bringing the palm of martyrdom and winning the final victory.

I assure you that you will not be disappointed because the reward will exceed all your expectations and imagination.

RULE OF LIFE

July 6, 1968

My daughter, I want to help make your life more ordered, so that you can make better use of your time for others and for the glory of God

Set a time, a small rule, to which you will try to be faithful in general. I tell you in general so that you do not create scruples for yourself, not always depending on you the following of the order of things.

Distinguish in this time the duties towards God, towards the neighbour and towards yourself. Remember to be at the service of God; therefore, from Him must start any initiative, and He must be the ultimate goal of every action. He must be the alpha and omega of your life.

Remember that you cannot serve two masters: either serve God or serve the devil, there is no middle ground. Remember that you cannot keep a foot in both camps, and therefore your selection must be well defined.

If you put yourself at his service try to learn and to carry out in the best way his Will, with the same care with which you would apply it to the most important matter of your life. Many times you ask yourselves what can be the Will of God, for He does not speak to you with the voice. But already many times I have told you that God does not need the voice to make

himself understood: his voice is that of the conscience, and if you listen to it you do not fail.

The Will of God are the duties of your state that from morning to night keep you busy, together with his Commandments and those of the Church.

Sometimes I express my Will talking directly or indirectly to some people, but they are exceptional cases. Most of the time, I express my desires with the good inspirations.

With a little care, recollection and good will you can make your life a total harmony with the Will of God, so as to realize what He desires for you, that is, your sanctification and eternal glory.

Once you have sought Me and found Me, nothing is easier than to find Me again in the neighbour, since in everyone of your brethren I am present. If you see Me in them it will be easier for you to love Me and to love all without distinction. If, therefore, you need to apply a general rule indicating your behaviour towards the neighbour, you can use a single sentence: *"I will love everyone because everyone of them is Jesus."*

Know, however, to understand well what to love means, because it is a word very spoiled and misunderstood. Love is synonymous with sacrifice, self-giving, immolation. Love makes similar, and disposed to forgiveness, it forgets itself for the being loved. You ought to love up to forgetting yourself.

As for duties to yourself, dedicate to your body the shortest time possible because it is like a donkey which if you feed it

too well, kicks back. Do not forget however, that you have to treat it with respect because one day it will be glorified in Paradise, while already as of now, it is the temple of the Holy Spirit.

As for your soul, remember that he who loves his life loses it, and whoever loses his life saves it. In this sense: if you seek gifts (even spiritual), graces, virtues and favours just for you, you are lost because you are part of that category of the rich of whom it is said in the Gospel: *"that it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of the heavens."* If however, you forget yourself even spiritually to think of others, you are liked by the Lord who takes care of you; from Him depends your sanctification.

Therefore, by following these teachings, you will make your little programme which I have traced out for you.

July 7, 1968

My daughter, open your heart to receive the heavenly dew that I will make rain on you, so that aided by my grace you can perform, with ever renewed ardour, my Will and that of my Father.

HOLY MASS

July 8, 1968

Daughter, listen to my words because they are light and life. Do not forget them, meditate them, put them into practice and spread them.

The world has forgotten my Gospel, the good news; it is too absorbed in other things to think about Me! And yet everything passes with the speed of the wind. Nothing lasts forever. Work, I beg you, for eternity. Pray, love, suffer, work, write, read only as ordered to eternal life, that which you are building with your work combined with mine through grace.

I would now like to talk to you about the centre of Christian worship, which is the Holy Mass.

Too many Christians attend it as a simple collective worship on Sundays, without knowing that it is the source of life, the perpetual immolation of a divine Victim; the only Victim who can compensate God for a debt humanly unsolvable.

Sacrificer and sacrificed is the Son of God who offers himself, albeit in an unbloody manner. In every moment of the day or night rises from earth to Heaven a Host in appearance bread, a chalice in appearance containing wine, a true mystery of faith! They are but my Body and my Blood that the priest offers to the Father for the salvation of the world.

The more your union with Me is deeper, the more the sacrifice of the Mass is profitable for you and for others. How I would like for all those who attend the Divine Sacrifice to be formed in a great unity with Me! Then the sacrifice would be perfect, since men would complete with theirs what is lacking in my Passion.

Do not ever think of being alone attending the Holy Sacrifice. Rather, always bring in your mind and in your heart

all men of earth. Offer Me the love their hearts are capable of, the sorrows with which all humanity is tormented.

Offer Me all that is beautiful in the world: the innocence of children, the purity of virgins, the holiness, as saints there have been and will be in every age, and in every category of people.

Make present to Me the needs of all, since the Holy Mass is not only the action of grace and reparation of evil, it not only serves to appease the Father and worship Him, but it also serves to impetrate those aids that you need so much.

You must celebrate every day with Me your Mass, joining your sacrifice to mine: be assured that your life is sanctified by this immolation, and you help in this way the brethren in the most real way.

Your Mass, however, should not be limited to that small space of time that you spend in the church near the altar and the priest. Even mine does not end there, but it is uninterrupted. Woe to the world if it is interrupted! Therefore, your Mass like mine must be continuous. Your offering must rise continually to the Father for all.

The offering of the Christian must not be individual, but collective, with Me. I chose bread and wine as matter of the Sacrifice to indicate this union.

The bread is made with many small grains of wheat, wine with a lot of grapes. I am the living bread descended from Heaven who in the Holy Mass offer myself to the Father with all my Church with all my children of the earth.

The priest is only the instrument of this immolation, who

like you can and must join in the Sacrifice. Attend therefore with great faith and with great love at that which is not a simple ceremony, but a true sacrifice, a continuous renewal of the Sacrifice of Calvary.

Go during the Sacrifice to Holy Communion, which completes your union with Me and my Mystical Body. Remember that there is no prayer as effective as this, since I pray for you and with you.

Do you want to help people near and far? offer Me a Mass for them. Do you want to liberate souls from Purgatory? offer Me Holy Masses. Do you want to obtain graces and aids? nothing is more efficacious than the Mass, as long as these graces are a real good for you be certain that you will get them; God cannot deny them to you if you ask for them through his Son.

One thing I recommend to you: try to assist at the Holy Sacrifice in the grace of God, for it is by grace that the divine life flows in you. If this is missing, you are an enemy of God. How can you expect graces and favours? How can you unite yourself to Me in your immolation?

I give you one last suggestion. No one better than my Mother assisted at my first Mass with more love and so much pain. She who is the Co-Redemptrix of the human race, cannot now be absent at the renewal of these great mysteries.

Well then, when you assist at Holy Mass call her for help, join your feelings to hers and you will see how efficacious it will be for you and for everyone.

TRUST IN PROVIDENCE

July 9, 1968

Daughter, allow Me to hold you back on a teaching that will help you overcome difficulties, to beat the temptations and walk more confidently on the path of virtue and good.

You must feel Me close, ready to help you in any necessity. Closer than any created being, more concerned about you than what the most attentive of fathers can be. Therefore open your heart to trust and hope.

Trust in God's providence that everything be directed to its end with goodness, wisdom and infinite justice. Let yourself be guided! You are in the arms of God, as a tender child in the arms of his mother. The child fears nothing, feels safe, does not cry, feels protected and defended.

You also in this way live your days: in the arms of a God who loves you infinitely and you will have true peace.

Trust Providence even when it seems to you that things are upside down or not as you wish, because the Lord knows how to derive good from evil.

Do not be angry, do not be upset by the wickedness of persons which many times is simple weakness that you magnify, but which in reality does not offend Me because the intention is not evil.

If everything were always to go according to your desires, how can I reward you with Paradise? What merit would you have?

LEARNING TO READ

July 10, 1968

My daughter, learn to soar from earth to Heaven, from creatures to the Creator. Learn to read in the marvellous book of creation the goodness, the wisdom, the infinite beauty of God.

Everything you see has been created for the glory of God and the happiness of man.

The sun rises every day on the good and on the wicked, and it illuminates and warms the earth making it fertile, does it not speak to you about the infinite goodness of God? And the marvellous order that reigns in nature, does it not tell you how perfect must be Him who has established the laws that govern it? The beauty and the variety of flowers and plants, do they not speak to you of the wonderful beauty of God, of his wisdom?

Learn to read, my daughter, and to raise yourself from everything to God to thank Him, to love Him, to express to Him your gratitude, your joy.

Learn to use well the gifts you receive and to value them since they are like double edged knives that can help you or hurt you. Let me explain: the sun can be, for those who receive it, a medicine and it can also give you a sunstroke.

Man is the king of creation and all things must serve him. He must not make himself a slave to things.

The scent of goodness

The harmonious singing of the birds has to lead you to praise God; why would you not like to do it from the moment that these simple songbirds invite you to do so?

And the scent of the flowers does it not lead you to think about the goodness and the virtues that are so pleasing to God and men?

The works of God are wonderful and sing harmoniously his infinite goodness, his wisdom, his providence. What things do unconsciously, you learn to do it too, so that the harmony may be perfect.

Too many false notes are created on the part of man. The use of reason alone also would be enough to discover in the world a creative and preservative Power, to feel towards it gratitude, respect and love.

The book of nature would be the easiest and most wonderful to read. And yet how many illiterates in this field!

Think for a moment what a perfect machine is man in body and soul. Upright, guided, commanded by the brain and the heart. Look at the perfection of his movements, the variety of the face. There is no man on the face of the earth that resembles perfectly another.

The variety of thoughts, characters, works, capacity, inclinations. Everything ought to combine to give man, though through hard work, the joy of living, as long as everything that he has he uses it for the glory of God and for his good and his neighbour.

But see how things are different in the world.

People live low on earth, not looking further than a few inches. They seek things for themselves, and if one looks up it is only to see if there is good or bad weather.

Learn to read, my children, learn to elevate yourselves, learn to use things for the good, do not be enslaved by them. There will arise spontaneously from your heart that marvellous flower which is gratitude, much appreciated by God and men.

DO NOT HAVE TOO MANY DESIRES

July 11, 1968

Daughter, listen to Me. Never desire more than what is given to you. Be content with what you have and do not be greedy for goods either spiritual or material, since this is at the expense of your happiness on this earth, and your peace.

The greater the desires are, the more numerous they are and the more unrest you will have.

It has been said to you that God loves the man of great desires and it is true, but in the sense of ideals for the good; for he who desires to do good will be rewarded, as he who desires to do evil will be punished as if he had actually done it.

To condemn and to avoid are not therefore the great ideals, but the desire to accumulate and to possess also spiritually; or the desire for the extraordinary, for novelty, for ever new signs and situations, not because they are bad

things in themselves (because they can be good), but for the unrest that they bring in life and for that haste that is demonstrated in seeking not the God of consolations but the consolations of God.

I do not mean to say that you have to hide under the ground the talents that you have received, and to live in peace waiting for the return of the Master. I just want you to live trading your talents, improving your material condition and your spiritual life: the first with work, with common sense, with thrift, with astuteness, all good things; the second with the exercise of continued virtue, despite the falls, continued tirelessly with courage and with so much trust.

Behave in every single circumstance of your day in the following way: look up expecting from God every help and grace, but also act with consciousness and will as if everything depended on you: always serenely, carefully and joyfully, not getting upset even when things are not going well. In fact, how can you judge what is your true good which only God knows?

Enjoy with little, and be faithful in small things so that you may be given a lot. Do not be frightened of the difficulties: the trials cannot be lacking. How can you know if that metal that you see shine is gold, if you do not try it in the fire? And in the same way how can you say you love the Lord unless you prove it to Him with confident hope in Him, even when you are in the midst of adversities and tribulations of life?

Therefore be calm, and live serene for your God who loves you watches over you, and knows how to measure on to your shoulders the crosses and the consolations.

Imitate my holy Mother who was always serene. Remember? Before the Angel who announced to her my coming and her divine motherhood, she merely responded: "*Behold the servant of the Lord.*" A humble and obedient servant she was when they carried Me in triumph, accompanying Me when I was in sorrow.

Imitate her because your serenity will give Me joy and glory in the midst of a world which, insatiable, seeks at any cost goods of all kinds for its own satisfaction.

ADHERING TO THE DESIRES OF OTHERS

July 12, 1968

Daughter, learn to listen, to receive and put into practice the suggestions that come to you from many quarters, since many times I speak to you through well-intentioned people.

The adherence to the desires of others is a sign of humility, of goodness, of kindness and of charity. If you accept the advice of others, others will accept yours, and there will be created that harmony which is peace, concord: that is to say, a union of hearts.

Love concord which so pleases God: always be heart to heart with Him and heart to heart with men, with your neighbour, ready to listen to him, to forgive him, to benefit him. Be indulgent to all. Indulgence is mercy, it is a greatness of heart, it is magnanimity.

Never drag up the past except to remember the good things and the mercy of God towards you. What is the point of mentioning the evil received or that others have done? With difficulty you remember the evil done by you because

confessed and therefore forgotten; but also the others will have confessed it, and if God has forgotten yours and theirs, why do you not want to forget it?

Occupy your thoughts in useful things. Think of the eternal things waiting for you, think of increasing virtue and perfection. Think about how you can help every day, benefit, make happy those who are near you.

Utilize the time so precious that soon passes without returning.

INCREASING GRACE

July 12, 1968

My daughter, I will talk to you about the care that you must have to preserve grace in the soul and to increase it continually, fleeing sin and any imperfection that ruin it for you, because it is through it that you are pleasing to God.

The more abundant the grace of God is in you, the more you ravish the Heart of God who loves you with infinite love, so as to force Him to hear your desires as if they were commands.

Fear sin, my daughter, under whatever form it presents itself and fight it overcoming yourself, your inclinations and the evil one, who continually attacks your spiritual life, his being the desire to make you fall.

Commend yourself continually to the Mother of Divine Grace to help you in this work of purification, of preservation and improvement; never doubt of succeeding.

Do not propose many things to yourself, but be faithful to what you propose. Be simple in your life and exemplary so that all can imitate you.

Give testimony of Me wherever you are, so that in imitating you, they might imitate Me too, whose copy you must be.

REMOVING THE IDOLS

July 13, 1968

If you want to please God, take away from your heart all idols. Let Me reign in your mind, direct your thoughts to Me. Let Me reign in your heart, directing to Me your affections, and in your life directing to Me your works. Never take your mind away from the ultimate goal that you must seek: to save your soul, and sanctify yourself.

Always remember that you cannot save yourself alone but only with the help of God. Remember that you must not save only yourself but to lend a hand to everyone, to all the world, to all humanity. Remember that everything that distracts you from the goal is bad.

I want to speak to you about the idols that you think are now outdated and with which instead the earth is full. They exist not only in distant lands where there is still idolatry, but right next to you and in you.

Many make an idol of their body which they put before God. They surround it with care, with ornaments, with attention and refinements up to making it a true object of worship.

Were they to do it to honour it as a temple of the Holy Spirit, it would be passable, but it is only for it to become an object of attraction and evil. It is a giving of a higher value to the body than to the soul. It really is an idolizing what is not an end in itself, but only a means to save the person, body and soul together.

Idols are many friendships that do not elevate because it is not God who unites the hearts. Idols are those attachments to things, even trivial to which you give an exaggerated value.

Detach, I beg you, your heart from what diverts you from Me. Since I want your true good. I love you infinitely and I desire your salvation.

Destroy, even at the cost of making the heart bleed, all that keeps you tied to earth. Look up: I will give you the wings to be able to fly, free from every snare.

Make use of everything as a gift and as a means. Love all with sincere love, love all in Me and with Me, until the day in which the union is complete and eternal, in the beatific vision of God.

THE VALUE OF SUFFERING

July 15, 1968

My daughter, if you knew the value of suffering, you would ask Me for it as you ask Me for the daily bread.

The Saints used to say to Me to prefer it to the most intense joys, and they did not know how to live except in suffering.

Imitate them, my daughter, accept suffering from whatever

part it comes to you, as a gift and offer it up united to my sufferings as the true gift that you can do for God.

Knowing how to suffer well is to love.

TAKING LIFE AS IT COMES

July 16, 1968

Daughter, take life as it comes, with its disappointments, its adversities, its pains.

You cannot change the course of the stars and you cannot change the events that accompany a life. Everything contributes to the good, even what for you is unexplainable.

Keep calm, serenity and peace.

Do you not see how men change and how the heart changes? Are you not aware of the instability of your affections? Your worries, the demands of work, the overtaking of new events, how many things change! So it is for all men of the earth.

Do you want to find a faithful heart? Seek the heart of God, He alone is unchanging.

Be resigned therefore, to seeing yourself forgotten, distanced, betrayed, rejected. Not that those who do the actions of forgetting, betraying, abandoning, etc., do good; but so that you can have peace just the same, be resigned to these things, not attributing them to malice or misunderstanding, but to the weakness of human nature that does not know how to be constant.

Pray always for everyone and above all forgive, do not wish evil on anyone. Learn to wait. If you learn to overcome yourself, and elevating your heart more and more from creatures, you will have great peace and no longer feel the need for anything.

When you are in Heaven, those affections that you have cultivated and desired perhaps unnecessarily, will be returned to you purified and sanctified. Then your heart, satisfied with the love of God, will enjoy in Him also all those affections which God took away from you because not necessary for you or maybe dangerous.

Thank God, my daughter, who in his divine Wisdom disposes everything for your highest good. Commend yourself continuously to the Mother of Divine Love that she may purify your affections, and leave you only the ones that lead you upwards and to the good. Continually offer Me your heart that it may belong to Me forever.

MAKING ONESELF HUMBLE

July 18, 1968

My daughter, make yourself more and more humble to be more pleasing to my heart.

Ask Me for the virtue of humility every day, because I grant it to those who ask for it with persistence.

Imitate Me, my daughter: I gave you an example of it with a life woven with humility and humiliations.

Many times you think you possess the virtue of humility

because you know how to be humble in certain circumstances, but humility is very different.

The low self-esteem and esteem for the neighbour, sometimes is only apparent. It is very easy to say to the Lord that you are nothing and capable of nothing, that you are only misery and sin, as long as no one will confirm this truth to you. But as soon as a superior or an equal, and much less an inferior dared to say what you say of yourself, how things would change! What sulkiness, what touchiness, what discord caused by little humility!

Dear children, the gate of Paradise is very little and only the little can enter it.

Remember the Pharisee and the Publican of the Gospel? Better a humble and repentant sinner than a proud just man, for justice and holiness do not get along with pride or, rather, true just men and true saints who are proud do not exist.

Humility is the foundation of holiness and the triumph of it. Do you want to be holy, be little.

Imitate my holy Mother who wanted to be always and only the servant of the Lord. She was known as the wife of the carpenter and the mother of an evildoer, who after having instigated the people died between two thieves on a cross. And yet she had something to boast about, she who was the Mother of God.

Humility is the virtue that will make you pleasing to God and to men, and that will allow you to do them good ordered to your mission and eternal life.

TO GIVE WITNESS TO JESUS

July 19, 1968

My daughter, on earth give witness of Me if you want Me to introduce you one day to the Father as a faithful copy of myself. And this you will do by living out whole my Gospel in your life.

Reproduce Me in my life of union with the Father and in the exercise of charity, the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

Do the works of mercy that I have recommended and taught to you so much. Remember that the disciples who journeyed with Me on the road that led to Emmaus, recognized Me in the breaking of bread. So your neighbour will recognize you for my follower if your works are in conformity to mine. *"Not he who has said, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter into Heaven, but he who has done the works of the Father by doing his Will."*

I AM IN YOU

July 20, 1968

Daughter, I am in you and with you: I will reveal to you the secrets of my Heart, I will let you know my goodness, my wisdom, my mercy and my infinite love.

Put your head on my Heart, like John, and listen to its beating. I will make you understand my desires and I will give you the strength to carry them out.

My thoughts are of peace and charity, they embrace the whole world.

You live in my mind from all eternity. From always I love you and I would not be able not to love you because the soul I gave you is my divine breath: you are made to my image and likeness. You are mine by right: I created and redeemed you: you will be mine forever.

I want you happy.

Abandon yourself into my arms: trust Me. Stay on my Heart: love Me, I ask you for nothing else: your love is the best reward you can give to my infinite love for you.

Try to imitate Me, but do not presume on yourself, since your weakness is great and only with my help will you be able to do something.

Do not get disheartened, however, be trustful.

If you fall, I lift you up: your eyes imploring for mercy is enough for Me, an act of sorrow, a good confession and you return brighter than before and I love you as before.

Oh, my daughter! if everyone knew me, how they would love Me!

Help Me, daughter! By sanctifying yourself, you help everyone; holiness edifies, draws, conquers!

Be holy! Follow Me: together we will transform the entire world.

OVERCOME YOURSELF

July 21, 1968

Daughter, every struggle to overcome yourself makes you stronger. Life is a hard struggle from which no one can be

exempted. Only the strong win.

I said so to you that I came to bring war. You must understand Me though: not the one that is fought with weapons; that one is the Evil One, wickedness and human selfishness that want it, and I allow it many times as punishment.

The war that I came to bring into the world is the one against the passions, the evil tendencies, the devil and the world.

So first you must know how to overcome yourself, because with this battle you strengthen your will, so as to be able to overcome the others. The first battle is internal, the others external.

The Evil One, however, acts on your mind, on your feelings, on your affections. He attacks you on your weak sides because he knows you to perfection.

Take a lot of care to avoid being the victim of a deception.

Be vigilant to distinguish whether what happens in you is God's will or the work of the enemy. Be always ready for the combat even if hard. I am at your side and fight with you.

Invoke the Queen of Victories and fear not.

NOT TO BE FORGOTTEN

July 22, 1968

My daughter, you must not forget two things: your sins and my infinite mercy.

The thought of your weakness, your misery and your falls must keep you in humility and in fear of yourself, while the thought of my mercy must give you wings to lift you up and invoke Me.

The low esteem for yourself, which is derived from the experience of so many falls, must not dishearten you. The more you feel little and weak, the more I bend over towards you.

My love is compassionate to the infinite and as you would not be indifferent to a child who invokes you for help, so, with a tenderness infinitely superior to yours, I bend over towards those who, having sinned humble themselves, make themselves little, become childlike and ask for pity, mercy and help.

Remember that no matter how great the wickedness and malice of man may be, it will never be as great as my goodness and my mercy is. It is like a sea whose shore you cannot see, so vast is its immensity.

Always remember your sins in order to humble yourself, remember my mercy in order to lift yourself up. Sorrow for sin keeps you in a state of preparation for death, that could happen at any moment. Death will come like a thief: it does not announce itself.

Sorrow purifies you, and trust in my forgiveness must fill you with joy and spur to the heights, to gratitude and to love.

The thought of your falls must make you careful and vigilant not to fall again, and sympathetic for others who fall, not to let evil pass by unnoticed without condemning it, but to

go meet those who make mistakes and help them to rise again.

Do not be, my children, of those who complain continually of the evil that is in the world and, talking about it, do nothing but spread it. Let the Lord see the evil. But you speak of goodness, of love, of beautiful things, of all that edifies and builds up.

Sin demolishes, love builds up.

Spread love: this is needed for the individual and society, the earthly life and eternal life.

LOVING RECOLLECTION

July 23, 1968

My daughter, love silence and recollection, for you will not be able to hear Me in the midst of the din.

Learn, however, to distinguish: it is not the external noises that stifle my voice, but those inside you. Try to keep the interior recollection also in the midst of your occupations that you can continuously transform into prayer.

Ask Me for the inspiration of your speech and discourse, so that your words may always do some good and bring souls to Me. In some special moments of the day revive and renew your union with Me. Dedicate to Me a part of the time that I give you. Give Me a way to make you feel my voice, put yourself in my presence: listen to Me, let the heart speak. It is so beautiful the meeting of two hearts that love each other! Want to try today?

See, I wait for you a few minutes before the vocal prayer to collect your thoughts, to unite myself to you, to see your spiritual position. If you feel miserable, if there has been some fall, you will ask Me for forgiveness and then ... forward with courage. The sailor controls the compass, the wayfarer the map.

Nobody goes on a journey without consulting the guide, without deciding on what to do. In the spiritual life you cannot proceed at random. Your guide is Me: consult Me, question Me. In silence and recollection make your decisions. Call Me and I will come, I will speak to you and be light and guide.

Invoke my Mother who is called the Star of the Sea.

Man's life is like that of the sea: now calm, now stormy. If you have Mary with you, you will fear nothing. Does perhaps the child fear in his mother's arms?

Do therefore as I say and you will be happy.

PREPARING FOR COMMUNION

July 25, 1968

Daughter, the most solemn act that you can do during the day is to receive Me in Holy Communion.

It is I, your God, your Creator, your King, the Teacher, the Bridegroom, your Friend who comes to dwell in and take possession of your soul and your heart. I would like for you at this very important act (which could be decisive in your life), to prepare yourself in the best possible way.

It is true that a whole life would not be enough to prepare

oneself to receive Me worthily. It is true that (having put this divine Sacrament under the species of bread and having invited all to participate in it) many times, I have given a way to have towards this Food of supernatural substance a very great confidence and attraction.

Nevertheless, it does not make Me suffer less to see that not only the wicked, who despise the gift and trample on it, but also my friends who come to Me without recollection, without love and without reflection, as if they were doing the most simple and insignificant thing in the world.

Remember, my children, that he who receives unworthily my Body and my Blood, receives his own condemnation, and those who do not receive with the proper dispositions this Blessed Sacrament cannot get those spiritual benefits for which I instituted the Holy Eucharist.

And now I explain to you.

It is not so much the preparation of words that I desire, but it is that interior recollection that makes you understanding of the solemn act that you are about to do, that makes you recognize the greatness of the gift and your unworthiness, and that leads you to reciprocate with love the greatest gift which the Son of God has given you in giving all Himself to you.

A good preparation is a guarantee of abundant fruits. You certainly will not be able to improvise it in those few minutes that precede this solemn act of communion, but with desire you will be able to sigh for my coming in you right from the first awakening of the morning.

Were you to know how I desire to meet you, to come into

your heart and dwell with you! With desire you can already receive Me spiritually and predispose your soul to the sacramental encounter.

Pray to my very sweet Mother to help you to prepare yourself well to receive her Bread, which is her flesh that she gave Me, and which I give you as a token of holiness and eternal life.

OBSERVING THE LAW

July 26, 1968

My daughter, listen to Me, I beg you. Too few are those who listen to Me: everyone wants to think and act as he thinks and how he wants and that's why the world is in ruins.

There are my Laws, but who observes them? There are my counsels, but who accepts them? In the name of freedom they exempt themselves from observing the Law, while true freedom consists exactly in this.

The Law is the safeguard of order and those who observe it are free.

Woe if there were no laws regulating the universe, it would be chaos! Woe if man was not guided by precise natural laws.

But what is good for the world and for the individual in the material field, is also so in the spiritual field. There are strict laws that govern the spiritual life, which lead and guide the soul from the moment it gives life to the body, to the point in which it temporarily abandons it, to resume it again for the eternal life.

The physical and natural laws that govern the universe preserve order. Those that govern human nature are intended to give, preserve and give growth to human life. The Laws that govern the life of the spirit guide man to perfection, to holiness, to eternal life.

If all observed the Law, the man would enjoy great peace and happiness and joy.

Examine yourself frequently in this sense. Ask yourself if you observe the Laws that your nature, God and the Church propose to you. Rectify what is good to rectify. Remember that the needs of the body and those of the soul are to be respected always in accordance with the Law of God.

Disobedience to the Law produces sin which makes man a slave to it. Obedience to the Law leads to perfection and makes the soul free and very dear to God.

Remember that my parents were models of obedience to the Law. Was I not born in the stable at Bethlehem by an act of their splendid obedience? Was I not obedient to the Laws from my childhood, even though being dispensed as God?

Do the same yourself too. Let the Law be the precise rule of your life, learning to *"give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's."*

JOY

July 28, 1968

My daughter, I want to speak to you about the necessity of joy in life to make hard work more light, sacrifice more dear,

suffering more precious, charity more pleasing, humility more real, prayer more sweet, simplicity more perfect, religion more loved, truth more desired.

I ought to explain to you each point of these statements and you would see the truth of my words. For now I limit myself to tell you to love joy up to asking Me for it every day as a gift.

True joy is a result of the grace that dwells in the soul. Just as you ask Me to turn sin away from you and the sadness that comes from this, so you must ask Me for the grace and its most beautiful fruit: joy.

It is joy that makes you pleasing to God in the practice of virtue, and in giving Him the best of yourself. *"God loves a person who gives cheerfully."*

It is joy that makes you pleasing to men, especially to your family, to whom you demonstrate with deeds that those who live close to the Lord are happy also in this life while being in the middle of the greatest tribulations.

Your serenity will be pleasing, admired and imitated. The source of joy will be sought after and it will be understood that apart from God there can be neither peace nor serenity.

To make religion loved is the duty of every Christian. But how can one love it if those who practice it and say they are true Christians cannot stand the smallest crosses, without making endless complaints? If you pose as victims and think that those who live close to you are all executioners, hardly will you be loved by the neighbour.

Be serene, be full of joy and spread everywhere serenity and peace. A serene face denotes a good soul and therefore

more approachable. Sulkiness, sadness, complaints, criticisms, always seeing everywhere evil does not help anyone and creates a heavy and unbearable atmosphere.

Purify the atmosphere, my children, open your spiritual windows. Look up, rejoice because Heaven awaits you while the things of earth pass away.

Rejoice, for I the Son of God, am always beside you to share your pains, to help you carry the crosses and to give you so much joy: the one that the angels announced to the shepherds and to men of good will, the one that I gave to my apostles after my resurrection, that joy which is the fruit of the Holy Spirit who dwells in souls.

Rejoice, then, I repeat to you again: rejoice and may your joy be complete because the Lord, the Emmanuel, dwells among you.

A HUGE HOSPITAL

July 29, 1968

Daughter, let's look at the world together. Don't you think that it's a huge hospital? Sick in body, in mind, in heart and in soul. And you, how can you remain indifferent in the midst of so much evil, so much pain?

Help Me, I beg you; bend over those who suffer with the power of prayer. Lift up those who have fallen, help those who are about to fall. Run to the aid of those who suffer, of those who weep or who are dying.

Do not surrender to yourself. Can you not see that they all

need you? Indifference is a sin, it is selfishness. The disregard of what is happening around you is rendering oneself deserving of punishment. Enlarge your heart: don't you see how much need for love there is in the world?

Love is stronger than death, because it outlives it, it is more powerful than sorrow, because it overcomes it. Love consoles, repairs, converts, gives strength, spurs to the good, overcomes evil.

Sow love! Why are you dithering when facing a good action that might arouse love? Do it, don't reason! Love does not love reason; reasoning is required by interest. But love does not seek interest: it seeks the good of all.

Live in love. Be strong and generous through love. The world is big, but love embraces all. Try to spread joy and love in the small circle in which you live and then widen your sights.

Run with your thought beside all those in need of comfort, joy, love, to all the sick of the world and ask God, who is pure Love, for a spark of his Divine Fire for each man on earth.

If it is not possible for you it is easy for God. You will see how much good will be spread from this little cenacle of your heart, where the Holy Spirit will have spread the sacred fire of Love over all the world.

THE FUTURE LIFE

August 1, 1968

My daughter, the month that you are starting, with its

solemnities, will speak to you about the future life ahead of you, where your Heavenly Mother and your earthly one have preceded you.

I could show you in part what the beatific vision is. Not completely, because your body will not be able to bear the grandeur of what the Father has prepared. And even if you were shown the joy of Paradise, this would always be incomplete, since God is the supreme joy that your eyes are unable to see.

Peter, James and John who assisted at my transfiguration on Mount Tabor, had a faint idea of Paradise; and yet they would not have wanted anymore to interrupt that heavenly vision and divine conversation. Paul relished in part the joy that is enjoyed up there, he declared himself unable to describe it.

I assure you, however, that no one, as long as he lives on earth, can see in their full reality the wonderful things prepared by the Father for his elect.

Know that in God you will have every good and every happiness, God himself being the Supreme Good and Supreme Happiness. Consider often then, your point of arrival and do not forget that from it begins eternity.

A glory and an immeasurable joy is worth a maximum effort on your part. What do you care if for a few years, all those whom you pass by here below, make you suffer! What do you care that the people of this world do not understand you, when you know that every tear will be counted and every pain so repaid?!

When the world, your own little world does not understand you, consider that a God loves you, understands you, respects your freedom, enlightens your mind, instructs you and wants you happy with Him forever.

I AM A THIRSTY ONE

August 2, 1968

Daughter, predispose your soul to welcome my graces, for by the way in which you welcome them and by your response to them depends your sanctification.

Your response forces Me to increase the dose. If you have a thirst for Me, come and drink: I will be happy to quench your thirst. I give myself to those who desire Me with the effusiveness of a father, of a spouse, of a brother, of a friend, who gives everything and asks nothing except love!

I too am a thirsty one for love. At Jacob's well to the Samaritan woman I asked for drink, and in her to all the Samaritans in the world. From sinner I made her apostle. We exchanged the water that quenched our thirst: she gave me her soul, her sins and her love; I gave her my grace and desire for the apostolate.

At the top of the Cross I was thirsty, and that thirst is handed down through the centuries. I appeal to all men and to all I ask that they quench my thirst. It is a thirst that will be extinguished only at the end of time when the Redemption will be accomplished and the heavenly Jerusalem will be complete.

But as long as there is a man on earth, I, your God, will thirst for his soul, for his love and for his salvation.

And do you thirst for Me?

I said to you: "*Blessed are those who thirst for justice.*" I am the Just One and the Author of justice.

I said to you: "*Blessed are the pure.*" I am Purity personified.

I said to you: "*Blessed are those who love peace.*" I am the One who gives peace.

I said to you: "*Blessed are those who mourn,*" because in my heart all will find comfort and help.

Come, come all to Me. I will extinguish your thirst for worldly things, I will help you to lift yourselves right up to Heaven. I will tell you how sweet it is to serve the Lord.

Come, give Me your love! ... I am a beggar of love! Whoever loves Me lives in Me and for Me: he no longer feels the weight of the cross. He who loves me keeps my Law which is no longer a yoke. He who loves Me follows Me even to Calvary, he dies with Me in order to rise again with Me.

Love Me, dear children, I ask nothing else from you.

DRAW NEAR TO ME

August 3, 1968

My daughter, always draw near to Me with great confidence, but also with fear and trembling, for I am your God.

Oh, if you knew the size, the power and infinite wisdom of

God, you would be full of wonderful amazement.

This you will not be able to understand as long as you are enmeshed in the body; only with spiritual eyes will you understand many things which now are completely unknown or barely outlined to you.

In expectation of that day so lucky in which, if you have learned how to merit Paradise, you will see God face to face, try with my help to know Him in all his greatness and goodness in order to love Him and make Him loved more and more, and better and better.

Desire and love what I speak to you about God, but above all, entrust yourself to my Mother, the Seat of Wisdom, so that she may teach you and reveal my secrets to you. With her help you will be able to grow in spirit up to reaching my stature of Son of Man.

I want to explain to you what I mean to say: you will reach Me in the practice of those virtues that I practised on earth as a man, like you in all things, except sin.

In every moment of your life, you can ask yourself to find out if what you are doing is good or bad, and if in your place I would do that same action and in the same way.

So ask yourself often during the day: *"Would Jesus act like that, would He think that way, would He love that way, would He speak like that?"* If the answer is always yes, what joy you would give Me, and with what peace of mind you would be able to call yourself a true Christian, that is, my true follower.

Try it, it is not difficult and introducing yourself one day to my Father in Heaven, you will be able to say with all sincerity:

"I am your son, another Jesus Christ." And He will welcome you in eternal glory.

SLANDER

August 4, 1968

Daughter, I want to talk to you about two very serious sins that are committed in the world and so grieve my Heart: slander and scandal.

Both are like homicides. The first kills the honour, the second the innocence, the soul of a person, in the sense that it leads him to sin and evil.

I would like to make all my children understand the gravity of slander, which spreads so easily and brings so much damage to families as well as to individuals and to society.

It is like a poison that enters unwittingly and which poisons the mass. It is like a poisonous serum that the enemy injects into a person while sleeping. It is like a stab in the back, a betrayal.

It seems to you, at times, you could trust a friendly person and he takes advantage of your confidence, he adds perhaps his thoughts unbenevolent and spreads news untrue. Not that he goes about propagating them in the square openly, but by word of mouth, in the form of confidence and secrecy. The news collected and disseminated always changes form and substance. If it is an evil, it becomes like a drop of oil put in the water.

I remind you, dear children, that those who spread evil are

guilty of it. That is why I have insisted at other times saying that among Christians evil should not even be mentioned as it does not help anyone.

Whoever slanders rejoices in the evil and spreads it with satanic joy, under the guise of being sorry over it and ending it. It is a sin that is committed with so much ease and lightness, and of which you accuse yourselves in confessions with insincerity, whereby it is most often not forgiven.

It is a sin that is forgiven with difficulty since he who steals obtains forgiveness only after having made restitution. Whoever steals the good name of the neighbour cannot be forgiven, if he does not rebuild the path undertaken by the slander, returning the honour taken away from that person, from that priest, from that friend or that unknown person.

You see yourself how difficult it is to make this reparation, and consequently how difficult it is to obtain forgiveness.

I do not want to scare you with the thought of the eternal punishments. I assure you that a terrible punishment will strike the tongue of the slanderers also in Purgatory, a punishment which, if my children were to see even though far away in this life, they would be so terrorized that they would renounce having the gift of speech, rather than use their own tongue badly.

I would like, dear children, that a holy fear of this sin made you more vigilant in order not to bitterly repent too late.

Whoever is aware of evil can advise the person concerned, but he must make sure it is really evil. Sometimes, even what has the appearance, in reality is not, because the intention of

the person who performed it was not evil. It is difficult for you to read in the soul and it is impossible to judge the intentions. Whoever then knowing the evil committed by others, spreads it, commits a sin that is more or less serious depending on the gravity of the news that is spread. This even if the substance of the thing that he propagates is true.

Sincerity and prudence

Love sincerity and prudence and it will not be easy for you to slander.

How many wonderful works collapse through evil tongues, how many broken families, how many ardent and well-intentioned souls, downhearted!

Slander is much more evil when it departs from the heart and from the lips of my beloved children. Those ones who receive Me often, who go to church, they pass with ease from murmuring to calumny.

Sometimes it comes from envy and pride. Sometimes it's the little rivalries, even in good, that make you become satanic. It is the envy of the grace of others that makes you capable of discovering also what is not there, and spreading the evil that does not exist.

Dear children, weep over this sin so serious that it sows death in the honour of persons who are around you, unbeknown to them, and make a solemn promise never to stain yourselves again with this sin so difficult to repair.

If you cannot speak well of your neighbour, keep quiet.

Much better would be for you to remain mute, rather than use the tongue badly!

You all form one body with Me, my Mystical Body. Whoever slanders tears apart my Body, he rips my limbs, makes Me suffer, and it is an evil that has repercussions on the whole Church.

My children, fear, and tremble.

SCANDAL

August 5, 1968

We resume the lesson of yesterday. I will speak to you about scandal which I said to be a real homicide even if invisible to the eyes of the body.

I have said to you in the Gospel: *"Woe to the scandalous! It would be better for them that they put a mill-stone on their neck and cast themselves into the sea, rather than give scandal."* And I explain to you: if a person throws himself into the sea, he only harms himself, but the scandalous besides ruining himself brings ruin also to others. In how many others you cannot define it ...

Observe what happens when you throw a stone into the water: an indefinite number of concentric circles begin to form, moving away from each other more and more. So it is of every sin: it has a repercussion on the whole world and especially on my Mystical Body, the Church. Then you can say with certainty that he who sins causes harm to the brethren and to himself, even if the sin was unknown to him.

This happens for every sin in general, but in particular for the sin of scandal.

If the reward in Heaven will be based on the charity exercised towards the neighbour, in the same way the punishment will be severe towards those causing harm to the neighbour, and especially if this harm is not so much on the body but on the soul.

I came into the world, I lived and I died on the cross to save souls. The scandalous ruin the work of the Redemption, renders it void, works against it. From this you can understand the seriousness of this sin.

To save one soul alone I would renew my Passion and Death, and the scandalous ruins souls who are mine, and for whose happiness I gave my life. Don't you think that there is no greater malice?

I will tell you how scandal is given.

Everything that is committed in the world, and that can lead others to evil, is scandal: injurious words and actions that leave an imprint in the mind, in the heart of others and which lead others to follow the example set.

The work of the scandalous is worse than that of the devil's, by whom it is supported and organized. Now, however, I do not want to make you think of the great scandals that happen in the world, but I desire that you enter within yourself for a moment, and reflect on your behaviour in order to remove all that does not edify your neighbour.

Thoughts, words, actions and omissions will be topics of judgment at my tribunal, all put in relation also with the

neighbour.

So begin even now to remove from your life everything that is not edifying. Watch over your words, your actions, your behaviour. Let everything in you be light and all lead to the good.

I have often told you at other times that a soul never comes alone in Heaven, but brings with himself, each one in his own time, of course, those souls whom he has saved.

The example draws. Fight in this way the scandal that many give, the ruin they sow, by counter posing a good example. Be an instrument of salvation and life where death is sown.

Collaborate with Me, repair, help Me. Always remember that whoever saves a soul has predestined his.

PROGRAMME OF LIFE

August 6, 1968

My daughter, continually invokes God's help if you want to win and overcome all the difficulties that you are presented with, and that stand between you and Him. Always direct to Him your actions, your thoughts, your words so that everything may be according to his holy will.

Watch over yourself: over the mind, the heart, the tongue, so that nothing happens in you that is not pleasing to God.

Sanctify your life by spending it all for the glory of God and for the good of the neighbour, not wasting even an instant of that precious asset which is time, destined to buy you eternal life.

Respect everyone. Do not judge anyone because no one of you is authorized to judge others, if you want for Him who will judge you on the last day to be lenient with you.

Be fair with everyone giving to each one what's due to him. I love uprightness and justice, qualities that render you dear to God and to men.

Be generous in sacrifice both in that daily one which accompanies every existence, as in the major events of life, when the Lord knocks at the door of your house, to ask you to collaborate with Him with your cross and your passion.

Trust the Lord your God, for He is watching over you, He loves you and wants your happiness and you only have to abandon yourself into his arms like a child and let yourself be conducted by Him.

Perform your daily duties with joy, with fidelity, accurately and with love, by uniting yourself to Me who lives constantly in you.

Here briefly, is what your life programme must be and the object of your examinations of conscience.

If you do as I told you, you will simplify your problems, your life will be simple; you will be a good example to all, and you will reach the holiness much desired and commanded by God.

Remember the command that I addressed to all my disciples, and to all those who would have loved and followed Me: *"Be perfect as your Father is perfect, who is in the heavens!"*

RESUME COURAGE

August 12, 1968

My daughter, love and desire perfection. Commit yourself to reaching it, but remember that you will have to fight a lot and you will always find that you can improve.

Never be discouraged when it seems to you to have arrived at a good point and you return to fall as at the beginning of your journey. Resume courage, invoke my help and continue serene, because perfection in the absolute sense is I.

On earth, however hard you try, you will never reach it in its fullness, but you must tend towards it since this is a sweet command: *"Be perfect as your Father is perfect, who is in the heavens."*

Be anxious, therefore, to take the best action in itself, always consistent with your duty and more pleasing to Me.

Do well what you do, very carefully and with great love. With these requirements, accompanied by my grace, you will with every moment of your life, make a great conquest for eternity.

Against the tide

Renounce your will which would choose its own comforts, the easy life and would like to selfishly possess everything. Do not forget that life is a hard battle always ongoing, and therefore cannot and should not be too quiet.

If you have days of fervour and quiet, thank the Lord and on these days prepare yourself for new assaults, since how can you win the palm of victory if you have not fought?

Arm yourself with weapons, essential in any battle: prayer and mortification. Nourish yourself continuously with my Bread, which is the Bread of the strong. Keep your gaze always fixed to the goal, looking out against the enemies: the world, the passions and the devil.

Remember that the maxims of the world are completely different from mine. Therefore you will always have to go against the tide: you will encounter ridicule, misunderstandings and reproaches.

If you want to serve God, you cannot keep a foot in both camps and serve both. The world will tell you to seek for your interest, your joy, to feel good while you are alive. I will tell you to think of the neighbour, to love suffering and to think about eternal life.

Your passions will make themselves felt and will demand to be met, but I will always be at your side to spur you on for combat, to stifle their cries and their claims:

- If you feel the desire to excel, I will urge you to take the lowest place;

- If you feel led to laziness, I will shake you and you will try to do more and better;

- If distrust assails you, invoke who can help you. Rekindle your faith and continue on, since distrust derives from self-love and lack of faith.

Fear the Evil One, because he appears to you under

different forms and tempts you where he knows you will fall.

Do not think, however, that his strength is greater than that of God or even equal. He can act on you only if you open the road to him; but if you are with God, who can be against you?

Love my Mother a lot: She is the Queen of Victories. Those who entrust themselves to her do not perish. To love her means to imitate her, to invoke her, to understand her and make her known and loved by all whom you approach.

If you do all that I have told you, you will be happy, you will ascend very high. The Lord will be pleased with you, because you have done everything that depended on you, and you will reach Paradise, the one goal to which you must aspire at every moment of your life.

TRUST IN PROVIDENCE

August 13, 1968

My daughter, permit Me to linger with you to speak to you about a very important problem which few totally believe, even if they claim to be Christians and practising ones. I will speak to you about Divine Providence, who after having created the world and the laws that govern it, directs all things with wisdom and goodness to bring all to salvation.

God is Love, He is Goodness, He is Providence and He cannot abandon his creatures to themselves. He knows man perfectly. He has equipped him with a soul and body and, although He has given to the soul the higher faculties which puts him on the first floor, He also knows that his body has needs to which the man cannot fall short.

He has to eat, rest, work. He has to take care of the body since it is a gift of God; life is a gift of which everyone is accountable.

Man has to bear in mind the mission entrusted to him. Every creature that is on earth has a special task to be performed, more or less important. To the accomplishment of this mission contribute the soul and the body.

Serving God

If a man has trust in God and with his help discovers what his vocation is, he must abandon himself into his arms and let himself be guided by putting body and soul at his service.

To serve God means to act always in his presence, that is, as if you saw Him at your side; and as you know that every word, every action and every thought you have to account for, try to act in the best possible way.

To serve God is to keep his Law, his Commandments and those which through the Church are imposed on you.

To serve God means above all to love Him, because the act of serving must come from the heart; since you are not forced, but free to serve Him, even if from the way you love Him and serve Him the eternal life depends.

Having done these things, which I myself will help you to do, the rest I do it, and if you trust Me, you will see that I will perform miracles to help you. It all depends on faith.

Do you want to see miracles of providence in your home? trust in Me. I know that many, though knowing that it is I who

governs the world, act as if they had to think of everything, and that is why so many failures occur in every sense!

You are short-sighted, you do not see further than a few inches and how you can make many predictions? Remember in the Gospel the one who, having filled his granaries and thinking about building new ones, heard himself suddenly called to account?

It is so, dear children, you cannot predict, you must not accumulate. Security is good when it is not voracity; thrift is good when it is not greed? Never forget that one day is enough to destroy what you have accumulated over many years.

Live in grace

Live trusting your Lord, who thinks of the fish, the birds, the lilies of the field, and do not fear that you will be missing the necessities. God does not abandon those who trust in Him.

Where there is no water He makes it gush out of a rock. Where there is no bread He multiplies it. Where there is no wine He gets it from the water. You might say to Me that these miracles have happened once, but now no longer occur. But I say to you that, if you have faith, they will happen again.

Moreover, try to observe in your life. How many times have you found yourself in special needs from which you were almost thoughtlessly released! From how many dangers you have been saved! How many times you have been guided in your affairs, including material, to do certain actions which you called providential! Have you seen the hand of God

directing your steps? yet it was so.

How many people have you found on your way suddenly, who have helped you in certain circumstances, who were light and guidance to you!

My children, know that the Lord is never idle about you. Know that no mother in the world is so thoughtful as Him. Trust Him, children, and in order to put yourself in a position to be favoured by Him, purify your souls, live in grace. The real evil in the world is sin. All the rest do not call it evil, call it a test. A test more or less long, but always an act of love on God's part, who wants to derive from it a wonderful reward and a great joy.

PROMISES TO THE PRIESTS DEVOTED TO MARY

August 14, 1968

My daughter, expose your soul to the Divine Sun, so that He can illuminate and make bounteous with light and warmth.

Q. - Here I am, Lord, I am like earth without water and sun. Only you can make rain on me the beneficial dew that softens me and warmth that makes me bounteous. You are everything to me!

A. - You can never measure how much I love you and how much I desire to be loved back. You write and read my words; I make them penetrate into your mind, into your heart and I help you translate them into practice. It is I who does it all: I just need your "yes", your desire for good, your will and then everything else I will do it.

The Christian life is so simple ... Not many thoughts are needed; just one is needed: God.

So many worries are not needed, except that of doing one's duty, one's mission. I help you in everything, I level the road for you. If need be I carry you in my arms, I sacrifice myself for you continuously.

I offer to the Father, my Blood, my love, my death and speak to Him about you. I send you my Spirit, who is also that of the Father, that you may be warmed and illuminated.

She pre-empts you ...

I send you my Mother to help you and guide you in every need. Oh, my Mother! ... if you knew what she did for every creature ... what she does for you ...

No mother is caring, active, wise as much as her. In Paradise you will be able to verify her power, her goodness, her wisdom. Remember, the wedding at Cana, how soon she realized that there was no wine? I, too, you know, realized it ... but no one else, not even the owners, the guests or the bride and groom.

It is always so; you do not realize it, but how many times she pre-empts your needs, rewards the little niceties you use towards her, she also warns you for some defect. And she does it with so much charity, with so much affectionate delicacy, which you do not even notice, because she respects your freedom, your way of interpreting things ...

She comes near you and bears all. She grieves if someone offends her Jesus and she repairs, she repairs. Oh, my daughter, I could not make you a greater gift! I could not give

you a Mother more beautiful and good!

So be generous and truly her daughter: she deserves it. Remember that, although she loved Me immensely, she never discouraged Me to give my life for you and for all men, each one in particular.

The most tender of mothers

She knew that my death would have been your salvation and of all; so she accepted to have her heart pierced. She, the most innocent and most tender of mothers, accepted to feel torn from her heart Me, so that my death might be life for everyone. She cooperated in this way for your redemption.

Obey her, this Mother incomparable. She speaks still, and not only in apparitions that she has been making on earth in many places, the most unexpected ones, but she speaks to your heart through her images, by means of her Ministers, who love her the most, who spread devotion to her, who speak to you about her and make her loved.

She speaks through the Head of the Church, who proclaimed her by my will her Mother. I assure you that: like the apostles drew from her word and from her teachings the light and the grace to know the divine Mysteries and spread them, so the priests who have recourse to her will have special gifts. She is the Seat of Wisdom (and the incarnate Wisdom is myself who made my abode in her) and Spouse of the Holy Spirit.

Special gifts

Priests devoted to Mary:

1. They will know how to counsel the youth and arouse desires for perfection; so many religious vocations will be due to the effectiveness of their words.

2. They will know how to comfort the sick who will receive the Holy Sacraments willingly and they will be prepared to receive my encounter through my Mother.

3. They will have great zeal and effectiveness of word in preaching.

4. They will have a special glory in Heaven.

5. They will with difficulty fail in chastity, because my Mother will be close to them and she will defend them in danger of soul and body.

Make known to the priests these my promises and help them in their mission.

My daughter, do not get bitter over anything that can happen to you in this life. The only thing that should frighten you is this: that the love for my Mother might fail in you.

As at the breaking of the dawn you think the sun is near, and from it you predict if the day will be serene or cloudy, so if you notice in a soul true devotion to Mary you can rest easy: in this soul there is the Sun of Grace, I am there.

If you see that this devotion is missing, fear very much: storms will gather around that soul that soon will destroy every good seed.

Love Mary, dear children. She will bring so much joy, even in this life, in your hearts and will be of great help to get to Heaven, where she has been transported in body and soul to

be able to better understand and help you, and where she is waiting for you in happiness and eternal glory.

PROCREATION

August 17, 1968

My daughter, I promised you an explanation regarding the behaviour of many Christians who do not know and do not want to put into practice the Moral Law, which I have placed as the basis of life in the world.

Now here I am to you.

In order to practise my Law, two things must be admitted:

1. My existence and that of my Father, who governs and preserves the world after having created it.

2. The duty of children to obey God and to have trust in Him.

If you take away this base, you cannot proceed; but with these principles you can live serene and confident that everything will be fine.

"Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth" was my command, which was not just for that moment, but for all ages, and is still valid today.

The act of creating is divine and to procreate is divine collaboration. No human institution therefore will ever have the right to dictate laws to prevent or dispense from my Laws and my will.

A divine institution

Also marriage is a divine institution and the Laws that regulate it are immutable. The indissolubility, unity, fidelity in marriage are characteristics that God has given it and He alone can change. So the end of marriage, for which it was established, is procreation.

To destroy these principles means to turn marriage into an animalistic act, vulgar and unbecoming to noble creatures, such as man and woman.

The union between man and woman is a solemn act, in which God himself takes part, who cannot be called to account and put in the mire. If the spouses understood the greatness of their task, they would be proud of it, and perform these their duties religiously and with great joy.

It is true that the modern world, mixed with mire and with always new and greater demands, cannot think about procreating, because that would entail renunciation and sacrifices. It is true that the law of mortification is by now unknown, because it is said impossible to practise and harmful to one's health.

But the truth is always that, as is morality. They are immutable. If you change or erase the truth, you are in error; if you change morality you have immorality: two things that God cannot admit.

Too many demands, my children, have been created at the expense of family and social life; if limited, would keep family peace and joy of conscience. To live a life of dissipation, granting all to one's body, is harmful to it, which in the thirst for pleasure is insatiable.

The law of mortification

My children, the law of mortification is not reserved for the consecrated, but is an essential general law, that distinguishes man from beast.

How many fewer diseases through much fewer disorder! Believe Me, children: sin generates not only death, but also moral and physical ills, which prepare the individual to meet it sooner.

Do not forget that the chaste man is worthy of respect by God, who makes him know himself; by the Angels, who see him as themselves; and by men who feel themselves morally dominated.

And by chaste man I mean also those who in marriage do their duty by accepting its material, moral and spiritual consequences. As no one can be authorised to destroy an incipient life, so he cannot be authorised to change or annul the laws that regulate the conception, the fertilization and the generation of a creature.

From the first moment of its conception I put the soul in that body in embryo, whereby to destroy it is like destroying the work of God.

Blessed are the families where faith and trust in my Providence reign, because, I promise you, and you yourself can verify it, they will be the healthiest, the most prosperous and the most fortunate.

Faith and trust: and everything else takes care of itself.

The great patriarchal families

Of course a large family always involves great sacrifice.

But who can say how much the peace of one's conscience is worth?

Where are the great patriarchal families, in which the Lord resided and was honoured, loved and served, and from whom they received every good?

My children, love the Lord very much and you will see that He will be enough for you.

Your material needs will be more moderate; a new life will not frighten you, and you will welcome him into the family with joy because larger is the host of saints, and brighter the crown of those who have given life to another creature.

Love the Lord and everything will be easier for you.

He will provide for your needs, He will preside at your table, after having provided the necessary sustenance giving health and work. He will guard the children and choose the best for his shrine and make them close friends.

The death of parents who will have behaved in this way will be serene, and their glory in Paradise will be by being crowned by their children because God will not allow them to be lost.

My judgment then will be so kind towards those parents who will have honoured Me by keeping my Laws and special places will be reserved for them in Paradise.

THE CROSS MADE TO MEASURE

August 19, 1968

My daughter, here you are at my service! I bless you for this work and for the promptness with which you subscribed to my call.

Readiness in carrying out my orders denotes the love that unites you to Me and can only procure Me great joy. It is a small sacrifice I ask of you. I know that you would more willingly choose other things to offer Me.

Everyone would like a cross made in their own way; but if I put on you a cross, I do it to the measurement of your shoulders; so do not fear, but embrace it with joy.

Remember those words I said at other times: *"I do not like your sacrifices, because in them you seek your will."*

You, in order to please Me and the Father, must be eager to do only our will and not your own. This will be the greatest good for you.

You want to sanctify yourself: this is the way, since we also want your sanctification. You desire with your life to give tribute to God who created, redeemed and made you a son to Himself: Well, He also desires this from you, but you cannot do otherwise than carry out his orders.

He is Father. Do not be afraid that He might command you things above your strength, and above all be certain that in giving you the cross, He will help you to carry it, rather He will also carry you over it.

So be concerned and anxious to understand what is the

will of God, what cross He wants to give you and then abandon yourself in Him and follow Him.

Love your cross

I have told you: *"Whoever wishes to come after Me let him take up his cross and follow Me."* Love your cross, love her for my sake and you will see how sweet it will be to carry it. Do not make it a burden for you, do not complain about it. Others have heavier ones and carry them with serenity.

It is painful for you if you have to get up several times during the night: but do you think about those who want to get out of bed and are unable to?

A worrying financial situation seems painful to you, but are you aware of those who have barely enough to live on?

Do you complain perhaps because work is back-breaking, and you forget how many unemployed anxiously seek work?

Your ailments seem harsh, but consider how many people your age were worse off, and perhaps also among your acquaintances, many already have parted from this life.

Everything is relative to you who live in the world, everything is directed and governed by a wise hand.

Bless and love the Lord at all times. Declare your obedience to Him and humbly bow your forehead before Him. Humble yourself, acknowledge your nothingness; because here stands your greatness, your peace. In your nothingness and in the acknowledgement of your nothingness stands your greatness.

Remember my Mother? She pleased God through her great humility. Therefore the Lord leaned over her and she became the most exalted creature.

In the humble acceptance of my will and in the joyful endurance of the cross, which I give you to carry, stands your greatness, that is like to say, your holiness.

ENVY

August 20, 1968

My daughter, I want to make a small mention of a defect that is so common in the world, and unfortunately also among people who go to Church and the Sacraments, and are particularly benefited by Me. I wish to speak about the defect of envy.

Envy always derives from a selfish and bad mind that wants everything for itself; or it is derived from the pride that considers not to be proper to others those special gifts, which the envious man thinks would have better appreciated or made fruitful.

A good heart thinks only of benefitting, he rejoices in the joys and goods of others as if they were his own, and does not wish and does not desire except the good of others: spiritual goods and material goods.

Envy is like a venomous snake which, as it poisons its own existence, would like to poison that of others. Insatiable in his desires, the envious man bites himself with anger seeing others enjoy goods that he would like all for himself.

Envy then, when it refers to spiritual gifts and to graces that the Lord freely distributes to each one as He sees fit, is a very grave sin, because it is a tacit accusation to God of injustice. It is a sin that cries out to God for vengeance; all love and goodness to all.

Guard yourself, therefore, always against this defect, which God detests strongly, if you do not want, for having desired what others possess, to be taken away from you even that which you possess because God has given it to you.

Rejoice with those who rejoice

Rejoice truly from the heart for the wellbeing, the happiness, and the spiritual and material goods that others possess. Pray to the Lord that He may preserve them if they are for their spiritual benefit and for the salvation of their souls.

Grieve with those who suffer, especially if their suffering is caused by the wickedness of men, and always give your word of comfort and peace.

Rejoice with those who rejoice, provided there is no sin. Weep with those who weep, as long as the weeping is sincere and brings comfort, making clear to your neighbour that you share his anxieties, pains and worries.

Never forget that God is a wise Father, who distributes his gifts with infinite intelligence. Thank Him for the gifts that He grants to all men. Thank Him for those who do not lift their eyes above and never want to attribute to God what they receive, but only think that it is the work of their hands and their minds.

Always be thankful to God for what He gives you and be happy, if you want to live a quieter life. Material wellbeing is most often a factor for having the spiritual one; the continuous anxiety to possess, to increase one's assets, to improve one's position gives so much unrest that can make one lose earthly happiness and also the eternal one.

Be content with what God gives you, I repeat to you, because if it is necessary to improve one's position, to plan for retirement, to save and have security, all these things must not generate avarice.

If it is legitimate to compete in doing good, because the life of man is like a big race run for the attainment of the palm of victory, it is, however, not permitted for you to envy those who exceed you, those who walk more quickly, since the reward will not be proportionate to speed and strength, but to the good will that the individual puts in to trade the talents received and reach the goal.

THE EXAMPLE OF THE SAINTS

August 21, 1968

My daughter, may the example of the saints who have preceded you and who have lived your own life, be a spur to you to desire and to walk to reach perfection.

I have chosen the Saints in all categories: in the most diverse skills, with different professions, in unexpected places. I tell you: I have chosen, because the call comes from Me.

It is true that to be holy one must answer the call, but no

one would learn to be sanctified with his own strength alone, without my help. That is why I keep repeating to you continually: *"Desire holiness, ask for it continually with prayer and collaborate with Me to get there."*

Spur and guide

Let the holy mothers who have already reached the goal be a spur and guide to you. Remember Anna Taigi, Frances Jane de Chantal and many, many mothers including yours, who so much loved, prayed, suffered, and in secrecy and humility reached heights unthought of by men.

Each one of them have had their gifts, their capabilities, their talents and their mission. They carried it out with love and goodness: some in the setting of their own family, some extending their charity and activity also overseas, others founding even other great religious families which then spread around the whole world.

Your family is already very extensive because your children have in their turn started their little nest; but I have given you also a great spiritual family, which I desire to be extended more and more. You will not be able to go to the aid and help materially all of your spiritual children; but your prayer and, above all, the act of unceasing love that I keep giving you, will obtain for all many aids in every way.

Walk constantly in Me and do not fear. Remember that large families are blessed and yours, the natural one and the one I added to you, are such as to merit blessings, support and constant help.

The joy of your continual and numerous motherhood is

also mine, who sees you flourish like an olive tree, and extend your branches a little everywhere.

Be constant in good, fulfil my will promptly and accurately. It is a task, a mission. Obey those who direct you with simplicity and love. This increases your merits. Do not expect anything from men, but rejoice to be with Me, who loves you infinitely.

Trust in my love

Q. - Jesus, make me believe in your love. I feel so nothing that it seems impossible to me that you can lower your eyes on me and love me with a preferential love.

A. - Dear daughter, do not forget that I love you not for your merits, but because I want to enrich you with mine.

If I find the right soil, if I find the soul ready to welcome Me, I pour over her the abundance of my love and I make great transformations. Nothing prevents Me from working miracles. Am I not perhaps your God?

Was it not my love that transformed the Magdalene, and from great sinner I made her holy? Believe then, beloved daughter. Trust in my love, forget yourself, love Me and proceed serenely on your way.

Bring yourself to the world in order to bring it to Me. Give comfort and joy to everyone. Love and be sympathetic to all in their defects, because you also have some, and help everyone. Let your word penetrate into their hearts with the sweetness of the dew that washes and softens the ground without damage.

Thunderstorms, showers do not bring benefits. So your

word, if it comes down like lightning or like a flood, will sow disgust and not bring any good.

Listen, my daughter, to my words, imitate my behaviour with everyone. That all might come to draw from your heart, goodness, generosity, love, compassion, all of which you have drawn or continue to draw from my merciful Heart.

Let my Mother be your teacher and may the saint which the Church celebrates today protect you and help you, and to whom you will address your prayer: Saint Jane Frances de Chantal.

THE HEART OF MARY

August 22, 1968

Daughter, I want to make you a special gift. My great apostle Paul wanted to measure the length, the width and the depth of my Heart. He desired to understand that is, the immensity of my love.

However I would like today to make you understand more deeply how great the Heart of my Mother is, because knowing her better and better, you may learn to love her more and more.

I have to say first of all that the Heart of Mary is modelled on the Heart of God, of whom she is Mother. You can never fully understand the greatness of this prerogative: to be Mother of God. From it, as a result, derives holiness and all perfection.

God, who has willed her the Mother of his Son, has equipped her heart with his goodness, with his mercy, with

his love, so that this Mother of God could in turn mould my Heart, which was formed in her womb with the same infinite measures.

In this mother's heart all the men of earth may find comfort, help and food for the spiritual life. Since she is the true mother of all believers, who are united with holy Baptism to the Mystical Body of Christ, that is, to the body of which Christians are the members and I the head, and she continuously generates to the life of grace the children of the Church and hers.

Next to each one

She is a great mother, who constantly gives life to new creatures destined to be given birth to eternal life and who, like the most zealous and most good mothers, does not overlook any care for these children, of whom she feels the responsibility and for whom she nourishes the greatest affection.

She loves with a boundless love all the children of the world, without preference, even if she gives to someone special and extraordinary things. She does it in order that it will serve all and always in order to eternal life.

She is my Mother with extraordinary powers who, without leaving Paradise where she resides in soul and body next to Me in the glory of the Father, suffused with the Holy Spirit, she can and wants to be next to each one in an invisible but real way, in order to help all and lead them to the Heavenly Jerusalem.

She applies to souls the power of her blood which,

flowing from her motherly heart, she transfused in my Heart, and which I gave to the world to the last drop in my Passion and Death.

She carefully watches

She gives you, in my Flesh, also hers that she has given Me; she gives it under the species of Bread in the Eucharist. She carefully watches over the Church and speaks to the heart of men, of any faith or of any religion.

There is no sorrow that she does not want and cannot console since, sensitive to human sufferings that she endured so admirably in her mortal life, she feels reflected in her heart the sufferings of her children.

She is not indifferent to any pain. Just seeing how much suffering is useful for eternal life and for the life of the Church, she allows her beloved ones to remain in sorrow, while providing comfort and support.

She, the Queen of Martyrs, accompanies these hosts of generous souls of all ages who, for love of God and by the demonstration of the truths that I have taught you, are willing to give their lives. Moreover, she is also next to those mothers who in daily life face many sacrifices in the fulfilment of their duty.

She watches with a maternal heart beside the Consecrated of any age and condition. She grieves if she does not see them leaning towards the attainment of perfection to which they vowed.

Her plea to the Father extends to all men of the earth and she unceasingly invokes for pity, mercy and help for all.

The new Esther, magnificent in her beauty, she ravishes the Heart of God. She presents herself to Him, the Father, holding Me a little child in her arms, or she even presents Me in my adolescence, or dying on the Cross.

The Celestial Shepherdess

Oh, dear daughter, I assure you that I could have created a bigger world, flowers more beautiful and more scented, but I could not really have created for myself a Mother more good and more beautiful, with a more delicate heart, sensitive and faithful: faithful to God in the observance of his Laws and his will in which she is identified; faithful to his creatures and faithful to the souls who entrust themselves to her, since she will never allow them to be lost.

Even if attracted by a thousand bad things that seduce the heart and mind of man, She knows how to track them down, retrieve and bring them back to the fold. She knows that I am the Good Shepherd. She is the Celestial Shepherdess.

If I am the Good Samaritan, she is the good Mother who runs quickly where the need calls her. She knows that I am the Redeemer, who had his heart ripped open out of love for humanity, of which she also is its Co-Redemptrix.

Daughter, invite all men of earth to take refuge in the merciful Heart of my Mother and they will be saved. You being powerless to do what I desire, offer her the hearts of good men and bad, so that once again the world might be saved through her, and through her may triumph her Immaculate Heart, home of the Holy Spirit.

THE EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE

August 23, 1968

My daughter, reflect continually about yourself to see how you proceed in the spiritual life.

Remember that stopping means going backwards, because like a boat on the sea cannot remain still, but must, working the oars, follow a direction, so in the spiritual life you have to take a direction, you must have a goal and the will to reach it.

You must not go forward rashly, but every now and then to check your position. With this I want to talk to you about the examination of conscience.

It is essential for the good performance of the soul, not only as a preparation for Confession, but as a constant verification to ensure yourself that all is going well.

It is a standing in front of God re-entering, with his light, in yourself, not only to see in what you have fallen, in what you have offended God and neighbour, but also what progress have you made in virtue.

My Minister

My daughter, the examination of conscience which has almost been banished by Christians, must return to be part of your life of piety to better cultivate the interior life, the only one that has a lot of importance.

If you are aware of disturbances in your person, you try to pinpoint them, you feel the symptoms, you think about a disease and you turn to the doctor, or take the necessary remedial action.

So it must be for the spirit. Studying yourself you spot the flaws and have recourse to the doctor, to the Heavenly Doctor who I am: fully knowing you I can illuminate and help you.

Have recourse also to the one who in the sacrament of Confession replaces Me and speaks to you in my name: my Minister.

With my help, exposing to him your defects and also imperfections, you can succeed in improving, to correct yourself, to progress in virtue and holiness.

Remember my words and put them into practice. The theme for a brief pause and a brief return to yourself you can always find. But do not put it off to the evening when, tired, you want to rest. Find it in any hour of the day. Make the examination of conscience precede prayer. You will need it to put yourself in an attitude of humility before God. You can ask Him for forgiveness before addressing your pleas to Him, and that will attract his benevolent gaze and graces on you.

Subjects for reflection

Examine yourself, if you approach the Sacrament of the Eucharist, remembering the words of the Apostle Paul: *"Whoever eats the Body of Christ unworthily, eats and drinks his own condemnation."*

Keep as a base in your examination of conscience the love of neighbour because, if you practise that, it is certain that also the love of God will not be missing.

Make, however, also enter as subject of reflection your behaviour regarding the good inspirations that come to you, so that you can see at what point your generosity reaches in responding to it.

In this way you can accuse yourself before God not only for the faults that you commit in thought, word and deeds, but also those sins of omission that none or very few believe they must detest.

I gave you a little lesson that will be very useful for you; it will be useful to all those souls who want to correct their defects, moderate their character and, if they have the authority, to help others to improve themselves.

A MAJOR DISASTER

August 24, 1968

A major disaster weighs upon the world, my daughter. Can you not hear rumours of war? Let it not displease you to sacrifice a few hours of sleep. Invite all to prayer and penance.

Continuously offer to the Father the Heart of my Mother and my Blood, my passion and death. Offer the hearts of all men of earth.

Renew your offering to Him, determined to sacrifice yourself for the good of all. Oh men, my creatures, whom I loved and love so much, when will you understand that the axe is at the root? Are you waiting perhaps for the fire to rain down from heaven to convert you? Or are you waiting for the Father's hand to get heavier over you and crush you?

Entertainment, lust and sin; selfishness, gluttony, pride triumph! At least may you be of those few who, determined to a true conversion, interpose themselves between the world and God!

No useless complaints, but constant prayer. Learn to give up many useless things, if you do not want also the essential to be removed.

My children, children of my Heart, sons of the Cross, it is time to be converted. The measure is about to overflow. Your God of Mercy and Goodness is nauseated with his children.

What must I tell you, my daughter? Stay in My Heart. Pray, love, suffer for all. Stay next to my Mother. I will protect your home and those who live there, but implore all to a change of life. You do not know what awaits you!

O daughter, I am sorry to tell you. I know you do not love such messages that you call terrifying. But how can I keep quiet to you the great misfortunes that hang over men? Can a good Father hide to his children the dangers they face or the precipice in which they are placing the foot?

I beg you, my daughter, make your word felt and make it reach as many as you can before it is too late. Turn to the religious authorities who you know and make my Will known. Let public prayers and reparations be made, let a special plea to God be added in the Holy Mass.

May the Father once again be moved to pity for this ungrateful and unfaithful people and withdraw his hand, which already bears down too much on them.

Pray, supplicate the Blessed Virgin to help you: do not ever desist from supplicating her.

Oh, the catastrophe, my children, is horrible! Pray, pray, pray!

THE TRUE LOVE OF GOD

August 25, 1968

My daughter, listen to Me: fear nothing. I am close to you. Love Me. I have so much desire to be loved, and so few are those who love Me sincerely!

Most of the time many souls believe they love Me, but at the first trial or adversity they become disheartened, weep, despair and, what hurts Me more, they abandon Me.

They seek Me, these souls, but only for their spiritual enjoyment, and just to be safe from corporal punishment. In a word, they seek Me and love Me selfishly, and only for the advantage it brings to them.

True love is very different, my daughter! It is like a gift that you make continuously to the beloved. So when this being is your God, the love becomes that precious bond that unites the creature to the Creator in a sublime and imperishable way; so that not even death can loosen it, and not even all the setbacks, the crosses, the illnesses, the pains of this life are able to weaken it.

See, my daughter, how true love is hard to practise? Do you think perhaps you love when, the heart filled with joy, you go expressing it with sweet words of affection?

Wait a little, try to feel abandoned, slandered, contradicted, mocked, insulted and ask yourself if you feel happy in similar predicaments to love the Lord, even thinking that all those adversities are given or allowed by Him for your own good. If so, truly thank your God: in your heart there is true love.

Are you happy to pray and offer Him sacrifices when your heart is full of fervour and health is favourable to you? Wait a little. Let the fervour turn into coldness, let yourself be sore from head to toe as I was on the cross, and if, in spite of this, you know how to say: "*Lord, I love you*", thank Him from the heart: you have the true love of God.

But listen to Me again. You say you love God. Remember that He is present in every creature: in the poor, in the suffering, in the friend and in the enemy, in the stranger passing in the street, in the child, the priest, the mother, in the worker and also in the sinner. In the good and in the wicked, God is present in every man by right, because He has created him, because the soul is his vital breath.

He is present because through the Redemption all are called to be his adoptive sons, because all are destined to live with Him in glory.

Well then, if you do not love one of them, even one alone, you do not love God, who is his Father.

You have to love everyone, and to love them means to put oneself in their place, understand their needs, share their pains, help them in their needs.

To love them means putting up with their defects and, if possible, to help them correct themselves, to forgive offenses up to stooping to ask for forgiveness, even if you think you would have the right to be in demand of it.

Love is something so sublime that makes you forget yourself for the being loved. It is something so beautiful and wonderful that only God can give it to you, because He is love

by essence.

So always ask Him for true love. What all men need, because it is at the base of all heroism, of all meritorious work for eternal life.

It is like the flame that nourishes the faith and that constitutes the family. It is the term that is contrasted to the pardon of the many miseries with which creatures are as kneaded together, since He, Love, tells you: "*Much is forgiven you because you have loved much*", provided that this love is true and sincere.

THE FAMILY

August 26, 1968

My beloved daughter, it is a matter of importance that I talk to you about the family, that human institution willed by God, which is a small cell of society.

First I would like to talk to you about the great human family, then the family as you generally understand it before talking to you about the family of God.

The human family

The human family is scattered all over the earth that has been given as endowment to man.

The earth was to be a huge garden where men, rational creatures, composed of soul and body, would have spent their lives serenely communicating with God who spoke to them directly.

After a test of humility, obedience and fidelity, they

would have been confirmed in grace whereby, having spent their earthly existence, they would have passed to eternal glory in the beatific vision of God and in enjoyment in Him of all good.

The grave sin of disobedience and pride brought havoc in the human family, it sowed hatred, discord, revenge, toil, disease, concupiscence and death with all its consequences.

God no longer came down to talk face to face to man, who with Him was so intimidated and ashamed, but He spoke from the burning bush, the mountains and through his prophets.

God loved man, who had been created out of love, and He wanted his happiness in this life; but the destruction would have been irreparable after the sin. Too serious the offence, too unworthy the offender to be able to repair it. An abyss separated God from man, an unbridgeable gulf.

The family of Nazareth

Only a man-God could be able to repair the offence against God made by a creature. And I came, the Son of God. I dressed in human nature in order to be able to atone, suffer and die. I came into the world and I chose a family for myself.

How can I speak to you about my family, the family of Nazareth, the one who all spoke of as humble workers? Nothing more harmonious and divine, nothing more peaceful and attractive, there was nor ever will be, on earth, than my human family.

A Virgin Mother with a chaste spouse. As a small child and boy I observed the two holy creatures who lived beside Me, my heart was filled with tenderness and joy.

I saw in their faces the brightness and joy of the Angels. I felt their hearts beat in unison in the love for God, for Me, whom they knew as the true Son of God, incarnate for the whole human race.

It was a paradise of goodness and love that humble clean house, where the Lord lived.

Oh, if in all the families of the world the Lord could live!

...

There was another family in Bethany, that of Martha, Mary and Lazarus, where I went to rest often and be among friends. How much delicacy and sincerity of affections they had my hosts, who sighed for my arrival and welcomed Me into their home, with the joy and desire with which one welcomes a person often thought of and strongly loved.

My presence sanctified their souls, which in the practice of faith and love were prepared to accept the sacrifices and to perform their daily duties.

See, my daughter, what is lacking in modern families: the faith that makes God live among them and the love which, purifying the souls of their components, makes them capable of sacrificing themselves one for the other.

One of the wonderful things created by God, one of the most beautiful was exactly the family. I consecrated it and, as from a simple human contract, I elevated marriage to the dignity of a Sacrament, I gave the spouses the dignity of Ministers of it, with the ability to increase grace for every good deed that each of them does for the good of the other, and of the whole family.

How few are those families who live in my grace!

Yet all the spiritual and also material destruction that occurs in them is precisely due to the existence of sin, and the rejection that is done to Me to live a human life imbued with the divine.

The observance of the divine and human laws would give that serenity and security whereby the spouses and their children would be able to face any sacrifice.

There would be formed in families those diamond-like characters able to overthrow the world, so to speak, and to sow good through work and to bring help to all the needy. Work, which in unhealthy families is looked upon with contempt and to which they submit with repugnance, is instead blessed and accepted as a gift of God in good families.

Even if toil is the penalty of sin, the work, to which I, too, my Mother and my foster father willed to submit ourselves, was sanctified and made a precious means of well-being and joy as well as sanctification.

Blessed are the families who in faith, in love and in industriousness spend the short day of life that will yield happiness and peace in this earthly life and eternal glory in Heaven.

The family of God

My daughter, I want to say a word to you about the great family of God, which is my Church.

How I wish for this great family to love Me! My Mother is also the mother of it. Always ready to welcome all the

children that the Holy Spirit gives her, She is tireless and diligent in everything.

She helps the good to progress and strive for perfection.

She recalls the wandering with a loving or severe voice, that they return to the family home and illuminates their path. She instructs and enlightens those thirsting for truth and feed the hungry with his Heavenly Bread. Give help, strength and grace to all.

The visible head of the great family of God is the Holy Father, the Pope.

How dear he is to my Heart no one can imagine. He directs the destiny of the Church. He keeps the truth intact, he guards the principles of faith and morals.

He is the helmsman who conducts to safe harbour Peter's boat. Under his leadership, obeying him, you are secure. He represents Me, he speaks in my name, in fact I speak in him.

My children, love the Pope and defend him. He is the Father of your souls. How can a child let his own parent be insulted and beaten up and not do something to defend him?

I know that all too easily his infallibility is called into doubt and many, even among Christians clothed with authority and priestly character, dare to criticize him, mock him and refute his teachings.

But I tell you, and my words will remain eternal, that those who lash out against him act like those who hurl a stone against the rock or like those who hurl it above their head, the stone will fall on those who threw it.

Remember, children, that *"heaven and earth will pass away, of my words shall pass not a syllable."*

I tell you today what I said two thousand years ago to Peter, my first representative on earth: *"Simon, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the powers of hell will never prevail against it."*

My words are still relevant today. And I say to my current representative on earth: *"Paul, I am with you: fear not, for I will be with you till the end of time."*

Now, dear children, under this paternal and infallible guide you walk securely. Listen to him, since he who listens to him listens to Me, he who rejects him despises Me.

The Church is my Kingdom. *"If a kingdom is divided against itself it will be ruined,"* I said to you.

My Church will not be ruined, since it is not human work, but divine; but souls that compose it and who are part of the Kingdom will be ruined. Obedience, charity, faith, love for truth: you must practise it all, whether you are part of the teaching Church or the learning.

The Holy Spirit, who is the soul of this family of God, while working individually for the sanctification of souls, works in union with the Pope, when it deals for the good of the faithful and the Church; whereby whoever is with the Pope is with Me and whoever is not with him is in error. (...)

QUALITIES OF THE CHURCH: POVERTY

August 30, 1968

My daughter, resume writing. I will continue speaking to you about my Church, my beloved Bride.

One of the qualities that I wanted it to be decorated with, from her birth, was that of poverty.

Twelve Apostles, mostly fishermen, were the pioneers. They owned nothing. They were not rocket scientists, they had no education and did not possess material goods outside the desire to work and bring daily to their homes the fruit of their toil, sometimes unrewarding.

I liked their simplicity and I needed that. Only one was a liar because he hid, under a semblance of goodness, avarice, cupidity and sensuality with which his heart was filled. Only he, the traitor.

I loved them, these friends of mine, and despite their inability to understand Me, I went revealing to them my secrets that the Holy Spirit would fully have made known.

Leave everything ...

Only one thing I asked of those who wanted to follow Me and imposed on my apostles: leave everything and everyone to give themselves entirely to Me in the fulfilment of the divine Mission that I entrusted them. *"He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me,"* I said. They must be free from all family affection to be able to love more deeply God and all creatures, for they, having to love as I do, the family of God became their family.

I wanted them free also from all that materially worries. I

said, "*Where your treasure is, there your heart*", so I insisted: "*Go without bag and without knapsack,*" since the wealth would lead you to ruin. "*It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of the Heavens.*"

My eleven had well understood my lesson and when, after my death, around them gathered the first Christians, my followers brought to the apostles their goods which, pooled together, were to be distributed to the poor.

I loved the poor and I loved poverty. I chose her as my queen. She has always accompanied Me from birth in a cave, to death on a cross.

I could say with truth: "*The birds have their nests, the foxes their dens, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.*"

How it is painful for Me to see how my ministers are worried about too many material things! That they have the necessary and the superfluous, that they have the useful and the delightful ... How displeased I am that they are not poor in spirit, for they are too attached to the goods of the earth, and that they are not so in effect because they have all the comforts and conveniences that do not let Heaven be desired!

Divesting oneself of everything

The great family of the people of God, where the goods pooled together should be available to all to meet those in need, is reduced very often to words alone. It is true that an indiscriminated social equality would not be possible in your world, where justice is so little practised, and where love is so skewed! but my commandment ought to be translated into

practice: *"That at least the superfluous is given to the poor."*

The more my ministers are detached from the goods of this earth, the more fruitful will be their apostolate, because it will not sound like a dead letter, but as a compelling example of a lived-out life.

The more simple their lives and stripped of demands, the greater will be their desire for heavenly things.

But what for them is a command is a counsel too, also for all my children.

My children, love poverty, sobriety, simplicity. They are sisters all these virtues that give so much peace to the heart. The more your desires are material and numerous, the greater your anxiety will be and more easily you will lose your peace.

Live from day to day, dear children! Do not have the mania of owning, because death comes like a thief, and you have to leave everything. Those who have held their heart tied to the goods of the earth cannot enter the Kingdom of the Heavens!

I, Jesus, I want my followers to divest themselves of all that prevents their heart from soaring, and above all else, I desire that the Christian, my follower, divests himself of every ambition of earthly greatness, because no greatness equals that of being sons of God

All authority comes from God and to it one must reach by divine will. No desires of greatness, no ambitions of excelling, no dreams of honour. All in the light of God, divested of all self-love, for his glory. In this way, dear

children, you get to be really poor, those whom I enrich with goods in abundance, since my word never fails.

"He who leaves father and mother, son and daughter, and all earthly good for my sake will have the hundredfold in this life and in the next."

HOLINESS

September 2, 1968

Daughter, I have put you in these days in connection with a number of people with a sanctity that is not common, so that you can understand and appreciate that holiness is not a dated thing, but still real.

God cultivates holiness in the world, He wants holiness and his Church is the teacher. In it there were, there are and will be saints. So one of its prerogatives is of being holy.

There will always be saints in all times, in all places of the earth, in every category of persons and of all ages. Even if their holiness will remain hidden, the scent will be noticed, the consequences will be seen.

The heart of the saint is like a fiery furnace that emits very high heat. Whoever approaches him feels the effects. Wherever he passes by or goes, he arouses warmth and life.

The true love of God is like a river bursting that drags everything with it. The true love of God, therefore, cannot be separated from the love of neighbour, it cannot stand idle. Where there is a soul to be saved, the saint who possesses this love is there in person or by desire.

Where there is the poor to help, the sick to console, the sinner to convert, the saint flies either by thought or with moral help or by means of prayer.

Apotheosis of holiness

Holiness is ardent, efficacious and generous. It knows no obstacles, because it overcomes them all. It offends no one, but others feel the contrast, they notice the difference.

The saint is called an over the top, an extremist, a fanatic. The devil hates him and his most powerful attacks are turned on him. The devil knows how much good he can sow in the world; so he keeps him in his sights, he lays traps and snares for him, which I help him to uncover and thwart.

The saint is my perfect copy. Where he passes one smells "the good odour of Christ." He is like a living Gospel, where everyone can read, where everyone has something to learn, to reflect.

The saint is a tacit rebuke to those who do no good, to the sinner: whereby many times he is persecuted, hated, slandered and ridiculed. I allow him to suffer in order to test his sanctity. I love him with a very tender love, I treat him as a friend, I reveal to him my most hidden secrets. I talk to him about myself, I give him my desires and I make him a sharer of my sorrows.

He cannot live far from Me, he knows how bitter my sorrows are; so he does not want to live in mirth, but wants to be close to Me in suffering and on the cross.

The saint feels the pain, but rejoices and savours the trials of life more than the party animals of the world relish the

enjoyments of their sinful and dissipated life.

The suffering is transformed into a joy so intense that he is not afraid to suffer to witness the affection that unites him to Me.

I did a little apotheosis of holiness for you, of which the Church is mother, teacher and guide. She has received from Me the means of holiness: the Sacraments which produce and increase grace. The doctrine which I have given in deposit to my Church is the practical teaching to reach holiness.

Flowering of Saints

Mark well, dear child, that the Church has an immense flowering of Saints. But I do make some emerge in other religions, among persons who do not know Me, but who love God and neighbour in a truly wonderful way. They practise charity to the heroic, ready to sacrifice their lives for their brethren, they live united to the soul of the Church and reach high heights of holiness.

You will see many surprises in Paradise of holiness in souls who did not know the truths of the faith, but who have lived according to the Law that God has put in their heart. You will see these souls have a glory superior to many Christians, who have received the abundance of graces but to which they have not responded.

Arouse yourselves, my children! Desire holiness, not as a vague delusion, but as an ideal, as a summit to be reached and to which you can get to. It is not a new road that you have to travel on, but it has been marked to you by Me and millions of saints who have gone before you.

They are the hosts of Martyrs, Virgins, Confessors. They are your holy mothers and fathers, who have had an unwavering faith in my word, an exemplary observance of my teachings and who have sown their life with good, which they crowned with a holy death!

On these footsteps, holding in your hands the hand of the Queen of All Saints, walk briskly, my children, in the way of holiness.

Lift yourselves up at every fall, asking Me for forgiveness and help; because it is not the fall that hurts me so much, but the discouragement. I know your nature and your weakness, I measure your strength, and I enjoy forgiving and helping my children.

The humility in recognizing one's own weakness and the readiness to resort to my merciful goodness is what draws you grace upon grace and the help to grow in holiness to which you all are called.

My daughter, add also this: to be holy is to do my Will, to seek it in everything, and to accept it whatever it may be.

Whoever does not accept to do my will ties my hands; so that all the graces that I would have desired to grant, and the grace that I would have wanted to give or increase, remain in Me and I cannot let them pass onto those who rebel against my will or choose their own instead of my will.

Do not be afraid of anything, my daughter. My will always triumphs over everyone and everything. Remain always at my disposal and rest easy.

UNITY

September 4, 1968

My daughter, I want to talk to you about what forms my most heartfelt desire as Father, Shepherd and Head of the Church. I want to talk to you about the unity, another quality characteristic of the Church founded by Me.

To be united, to form a great unity! Every father of a family desires for the members of his family to be united in affection, in thought and in deed.

Well then, I am, as I have already said before, the Father, the Head of the Church, of the family of God, which I myself have founded and I can only desire, inculcate and demand unity.

All united

All united by a single Creed, all heading to reach a single goal, all bound by a single link: that of love God and neighbour. All under a single guide, made by Me infallible and powerful with the power of God, the Pope.

This is one of my most burning desires. But how to realize it? Behold, my daughter, my teaching.

You cannot believe what you do not know. So that you can believe the same truths that were not revealed to you from men but from God himself, the study of truth is needed. A study diligent and enlightened, that is to say, done under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, who can enlighten the individual and who assists and guides the Church.

Hence the need to listen with great attention everything you are taught regarding my doctrine and my Gospel.

At one time even the mothers were true teachers of religion and the children learned from the maternal knees the first elements of my Law and Faith. The first gestures of affection that so delighted Me (since children have always formed my joy and my hope), were aimed at my images which dominated in homes. Then they walked to the Church and Oratories, where they continued the religious instruction, while cheering the spirit with songs and collective prayers.

Anything that elevates the mind to Heavenly things gives also relief to the body and I saw young people who were content with a few simple things unlike the youth of today who are never satisfied and are so unhappy.

The young seek happiness where they cannot find it, because God alone is happiness and infinite joy, and the heart of man cannot be satisfied with ephemeral things.

That's why I renew through you, a simple instrument, my teachings which, brought to your level, can make Me live in your midst. I myself can be the light of your minds and make sure that, united by the same mind and the same truth, you are truly one.

I would like for the whole world to be like one mind illuminated by God, and that the union of the minds of all men be unleashed like a luminous trail that, wrapping the entire humanity, turned it to Heaven.

"Ut Unum sint! That they may be one."

A great pilgrimage

The world of men is like a great pilgrimage that goes from

earth to Heaven. Participated in by all, even without their knowledge. Some believe that after a brief journey everything ends, others think they may be reborn perhaps in another form, others still are not aware of anything and make their journey as one who getting on a train did not take the ticket and does not know where he will end up.

All that is wrong, my children! The brief journey of life - and how short it is you also can see for yourself, you who read and hear constantly talk of death, it cannot be accomplished without a goal, at random, as does the fool who does not realize anything.

One needs to realize the reality and aim for the end with that awareness with which those who do not want to throw away their time predispose all from morning to night, as from the beginning to the end of the day of life.

Oh, if all of you were consciously journeying towards Heaven where they await you, but not all, of those who have gone before you, since many have lost their way and have not come to salvation!

Look to the end, aim for the goal, my children, if you want your life to be better organized, more profitable and happier.

You will see how the things of earth will seem trivial, every loss will seem like a gain, each passing day will make you rejoice, for you will see approach you the last day, that of entry into the Homeland.

The unity of thought, the same goal to which you aim must squeeze you in a single embrace with all your brethren in the world!

Love makes you brothers

Oh, my children, how I would like to give you my heart burning with love so that you may love each other! It is only love that makes you brothers and makes you live in God. Love one another, children, let love unite you in God so as to form one body, and one soul alone.

Welcome now the invitation and communicate it also to others, so as to pray for those who are not in the truth. Misled by false doctrines and heresies they have left the barque of Peter. Do you not feel pity for those who walk in darkness?

Therefore request the Father to make light and for the truth to appear and error be refuted, and for the wanderers to return, and for those who are in error to retract. Love these brethren, that schism or heresy hold apart, invoke for their conversion; but let your spiritual and your religious education be such as to be able to elucidate their doubts and not be attracted yourselves as well into error.

Let not the false idea that every religion is good seduce you. Even if those who have a religion different from the Catholic Christian one, which I myself have taught you, have the possibility to be saved, if they are in good faith and respect the commandment of charity innate in the human heart, the truth is not equal to error and can be only one.

To say that every religion is good and is equal, is like saying that error is equivalent to truth. Do you think it right?

Have pity also on those who refuse to see the light that they once possessed, and do not live in distant lands, but perhaps in your own homes. They are united to the Body of the Church

because baptized, but they are not united to the soul because they deny certain truths that are part of the Creed.

The road of materialism

Many say and think that with death everything is ended. They prefer to be similar to animals than to think of having an immortal soul, which makes them superior to every creature on earth.

I want to talk to you about the materialism that drags behind itself millions of men taking away from them the thought of eternal life. These men are promised a terrestrial paradise in contrast to the heavenly one.

Therefore, they reject and forget the reward that God reserves for those who live in his grace and in his love, to attach themselves and struggle only for miserable human reward, so miserable ...

The thought of a good Father in Heaven does not comfort them nor encourage them. They prefer to rely on a creature that is here today and tomorrow is no longer, and will be unable to help them in their needs.

It is a road, that of materialism, which leads to hate, crime, immorality and unhappiness as a consequence. In fact, if the existence of an immortal soul, that of God and Heaven is denied, who can hold back man from sinning?

Pray, my daughter, pray for all these my children, so that in front of factual evidence they may find again the light of truth. Remember that God is love, He is truth and happiness; whoever finds Him finds everything, finds eternal life and begins from this earthly life to enjoy true peace with Him.

UNIVERSALITY

September 5, 1968

The strength of sacrifice

My daughter, you might ask yourself, why do I call you at night to write, while it could be done also during the day.

I answer you: *"Every human or divine work for it to be done and to have value must cost sacrifice; the more it costs, the harder was the sacrifice, the more the work is valued."*

This, your sacrifice, confirmed by my own, since I act with you, produces a value to these my words that will obtain miracles of conversion in those who read them.

Now I want to tell you a true little and great thing.

Do you know why so many marvellous books written by great theologians and so many sermons of talented speakers or even of simple priests remain without fruit, do not convince, do not shake, do not change one's life?

Sacrifice was lacking, which is the best preparation; whereby there occurs what you see when children make soap bubbles. There are so many beautiful and colourful little balloons that the first breath of wind destroys.

So it is with my word written or preached, when the power of sacrifice is missing: it bears no fruit.

A predisposition of good will, grace and desire of the word there must also be in those who listen. But the great miracles of conversion, which took place in the world, have been made, in most cases, by means of the word that God has made effective by the sacrifice of those who have spread the word.

The divine imprint

Do not think that the Missionaries, who are my great heralds, can extend my Kingdom without sacrifice. Before teaching my doctrine, they must make a long apprenticeship of sacrifices and prayers, of adjustments and understandings.

How many, how many sacrifices of everything: sleep, food, customs, ideas and habits. Only after having demonstrated to the unbelieving peoples through the renunciation of one's way of thinking and acting, of being one of them and of loving them, the missionaries will be able to start talking about Me and to make Me known.

My Kingdom, the family of the people of God is consolidated and spread with the sacrifice rested on my grace. It is a great thing to contribute with the word and with writing for the expansion of my Kingdom in souls and in the world!

The universality of the Church is a permanent quality of hers, which everyone must contribute to realize, everyone with his small contribution. Do you talk about God and his Church in your home or wherever you are? If you invoke my help first and join some small sacrifice, you perform the most beautiful work of collaborating with the Church so that she extend her offshoots over the whole earth, so that your work will be multiplied and extended.

My desire "to form one flock under one shepherd" is also the yearning of my Heart, so that all those who do not know Me may, with the work of every believing soul, come to Me. Put therefore , my dear, this thought in every word you write, in every action you make: *"I work, Lord, for the expansion of*

your Kingdom, so that the Church to which I belong may in deed become increasingly catholic, that is, universal."

The greater your desire, the more abundant the grace that you possess, the more enormous your sacrificial contribution is, the more efficacious and lasting will be your work, because it will carry a divine imprint.

APOSTOLICITY

September 7, 1968

My daughter, I want to talk to you about religious vocation, that gift that is so precious that it is reserved to the few and that the world despises, particularly in this period.

My Church, which I wanted to be the stronghold that, resisting the storms of all time, to tower in the world, rests upon a religious vocation.

It was my first call to leave family, work and the world in order to dedicate oneself solely to the interests of God, the vocation which began the Church. The apostles have paved the way which was followed uninterruptedly over the centuries by thousands of men their successors.

As I called the apostles, so I have called and call their successors and those who are destined to help them in the exercise of their ministry, that is, in the preaching of the truth, in the administration of the Sacraments and of the various rites, in the celebration of Holy Mass and in the comfort of the afflicted, the poor, and all the people of God

Double gift

Everyone needs the man of God, the apostle, the one who speaks in the name of the Lord teaching you my doctrine. It is a great gift of God the one of vocation, a double gift: for the person receiving it and for the people who must enjoy its help.

However, the vocation is a big responsibility which obliges to respond with a life of perfection. The Lord puts on the way of those who are called a countless series of graces, to which he must respond in order to achieve that degree of perfection that befits one of the elect of God.

Not responding means making a failure in carrying out one's mission and even putting at risk one's own salvation. The vocation is a sign of friendship and predilection that God gives to a creature whom He wants to clothe with a divine authority and make a sharer in his tenderness.

Embracing a vocation joyfully, keeping it diligently, responding with the help of grace, means reaching the highest peaks of Christian perfection.

The vocation is a call that does not compel the individual to obedience. It is a loving invitation to a complete renunciation to the world of things and people to be able with God's help to conquer the whole world for Him, for His glory. It is an invitation to which one must and one can freely obey.

You might ask Me: *"He who refuses to follow the vocation, is he saved?"*

I answer you: *"Not responding to the divine call is one of the grave indelicacies that make my Heart suffer the most. It is*

as if a child you love with a preferential love refuses to be near you, to refuse your caresses and your gifts."

You can understand Me: that son you would continue to love him: but you would find yourself unable to show him your love and your tenderness. So it is with the Lord.

God does not abandon anyone, but if a person does not appreciate, does not understand or want to understand the desire of God about him, he will not be able to receive the abundance of his gifts that He had reserved for him, and he will not be able to reach that perfection to which he was predestined.

The host of virgins

My Mother opened the ranks of all those virgins who, renouncing marriage to which the woman feels naturally inclined, have chosen to follow Me as the most sweet Bridegroom of their souls.

Giving Jesus to the world is their task, exercising a spiritual motherhood towards all creatures who feel the need of a mother. That is what I desire from my brides: that they cultivate in their hearts that maternal tenderness towards every creature that passes by them.

How many patients would be better assisted and made more docile and capable of suffering! Just a word or a smile, sometimes, is enough to make their hearts happier.

How more effective lessons in schools would be if these were given with maternal goodness! How the children would feel the presence of their angels represented by the nuns who assist them!

How the youth would be more attracted and encouraged to follow Me if they could see the characteristics of the maternal heart in those religious who strive to lure them! How beautiful would be convents, oases of peace and charity, worthy of admiration to angels and to men.

Unfortunately, the hardness makes unlovable these creatures, who ought to reflect the tenderness of my Mother! I would like to say to these my brides: "*Love, love all.*" One can never go wrong when one loves much in the Lord.

You are made of body and soul. Love, therefore, cannot remain within: it must be manifested with many niceties and courtesies, which are the fragrance of goodness and love.

CUSTODIAN OF TRUTH

September 8, 1968

Daughter, do not be afraid to speak the truth, since I like the truthful man. Millions of martyrs have given their lives for the sake of it, for Truth is God himself.

Have I not said to you in the Gospel: "*I am the Way, the Truth and the Life?*"

To follow Me is to walk in the light. When the light comes the darkness disappears. When I go into a soul error disappears, the day breaks, the soul is liberated and rejoices, breaks the chains of slavery of the devil, triumphs over evil and feels attracted by an irresistible force towards good .

In my Church I have placed the treasure of my truth, which is one. It cannot be manhandled, it cannot be adapted to the times and to persons; it is unchangeable.

Sole interpreter of it is the Pope; therefore, he is continuously assisted by the Holy Spirit. If all could interpret the truth in their own way, what would the Holy Spirit be doing? And the Most Blessed Virgin, who is Mother and Teacher of the Church, what role would she have?

It is true that you say: *"So many heads and so many ways to think."* But if everyone was free to think and to interpret the doctrines and the truth as he believes, there would be as many religions as there are men.

If other sciences, especially mathematics, have only one teacher that everyone follows, the science of sciences, religion, which is a divine science, how can it be arbitrarily understood and tampered with?

I repeat to you: *"The only Teacher of truth is the Pope, because he is continuously assisted by the Holy Spirit; and whoever dissents with what He ordains and decides in terms of truth, is in heresy and in error."*

Do you see how many Protestant sects were formed in the world especially in your Europe? It is the pride of men's mind that will not submit and wants to set itself up as teacher when its position is that of a pupil.

Be humble, my children, and it will be easy for you to obey, it will be easy for you to believe, and with serenity and joy you will accept my teachings, that will come to you through My Vicar on earth, the Pope, and you will put them into practice.

He is my voice, he is my echo, which through him goes spreading throughout the world. It is the echo of the truth that

makes you free from error and deceit which is headed by the Evil One.

GENEROSITY

September 5, 1968

My daughter, I must instruct you on some truths rather unknown and so important not only for yourselves but also for others.

I will speak to you about generosity, a virtue contrary to avarice. A person is valued and is also appreciated by men in proportion to the greatness of his heart.

To have a great and generous heart means to have a kindness for every trial. Few are those who respond to the invitation to be generous, because man, with some exceptions, is more inclined to selfishness and to avarice. What one does not naturally possess can however, be a moral conquest to which one must strive, since God loves generous and ardent hearts and detests petty and mean hearts.

You will do much to please God

This virtue of generosity you must exercise as much towards God as towards neighbour, certain that if you will be generous, that is full of heart and goodness towards the neighbour, you will do much to please God.

Be always ready in responding to the invitations of love that the Lord gives you. Listen to the good inspirations that He constantly sends you in a thousand ways. Follow with love his commands and also the counsels that are addressed to you by Him with fatherly kindness. Put your attention in

anticipating the desires of your God, returning that love with which He has anticipated you by loving you from all eternity.

God does not ask you anything but love; moreover, this is a word that encompasses everything. Give Him everything, therefore, without reserve: the thoughts, the feelings, the actions. Do not keep anything to yourself: direct all to Him, but do so that what you offer Him is worthy of being offered.

Every day give all to the Father: you are a little thing, you are nothing ... you are, to put it in numbers, a zero. Well then put before your zero my unity and you will have a number.

Now I'll teach you how you can turn it into a number of great magnitude. Every time that you, recognizing your nothingness, you join with Me and with Me you offer yourself to the Father, in a sacrifice and a total giving, you add a zero to the number of which I am the first number. You understand from this simple thing what immense value your day and your life may take on.

I just want you to do everything you can, with the greatest commitment, with the greatest affection, recognizing your inability. I am happy and I repair what is wrong, I recover what is to be recovered, I fill in for what is missing. In a word, I complete or replace the offering, that it may be worthy of being presented to the Father and worthy of eternal reward.

This much regarding your generosity towards God. But your offering cannot be complete if you do not exercise this virtue also with your neighbour. I have told you many times that in your brother you must see Me; there is only one difference: that God you do not see Him and the neighbour you see him.

I will never say no ...

The love of God and neighbour is completed, they cannot be divided. If you say to the Lord that you give yourself completely to Him, you put yourself at his service, and then you deny to your brother a favour that you could do for him, you deny a service to God.

How much those souls make Me happy who have made as point of reference in their lives: *"As far as it is possible for me, I will never say no to anybody,"* and they mean by this expression of wanting to help those who ask to be helped, when it is not possible with works, at least with advice, with a kind word, a smile, a prayer. And all of this given and made with a great heart.

Do not let any needy man come to your house without having received from you what you would give to Me, who present myself under the guise of the poor man who asks you a little something.

The first generosity exercise it with your family, with the neighbour who is near you, and in giving never think about the reward that you can derive from it, because this desire makes you lose much of the merit.

Do what you can to make everyone happy and you will make Me happy. It is true that sometimes you will find those who exploit your goodness and also who will be your friend as long as you have something to give and perhaps will even abandon you when you are in need. No matter, do not dwell on these thoughts, because the Father has already destined a reward for you even for every little thing you did; so you do not have to regret anything, and the outcome more or less

happy with the good you do must not bother you.

Be generous, my daughter, and the Lord will be generous with you giving you a hundredfold. Remember the saying that you are accustomed to say, and that is a proven reality: "*Charity comes out by the window and enters by the door.*" You want to experience it?

PADRE PIO HAS DONE HIS WORK

September 5, 1968 (3.00 pm)

My daughter, I cannot at this time not call you again to talk to you about the most generous and most loving man who now exists on earth.

I speak of Padre Pio, of that beloved son of mine who from an early age has given to Me all himself, accepting to carry on his body the painful marks of my passion, so as to make his life an acute and continuous suffering.

Now he has done his work, and it is right that the Father introduces him in the glory that he has well deserved. But as with any man living on earth (and as it was for Me), death was very painful for him. It is the last act of offering that he makes to God, to whom he has lived so intimately united as to work sensational miracles, especially conversions.

My Mother is beside him and I also am beside him; but it is right that his spiritual children, for whom he has suffered so much, whom he loved so much and with whom he shared joys and sorrows, to pray for him.

He, to whom God grants to see his children, even if distant, to communicate with their angels as with his own, can

rejoice seeing you all united in prayer for the good and generous father, who of his life has made a gift to God, imploring compassion for all men.

**NOT WHOSOEVER SHALL HAVE SAID:
"LORD, LORD ..."**

10 september 1968

My daughter, collect your thoughts and put yourself in my presence, because I am going to talk to you. Rekindle your faith and humble yourself before Me, recognizing your nothingness and your weakness.

These are the essential conditions that I desire so that all men might be able to communicate with their God. The world does not hear Me and does not understand Me, because it does not love silence and recollection. My voice is simple and delicate. I do not scream, I do not make noise: I stand at the door of the human heart and knock discreetly, I ask to be able to enter.

I would like to be part of the lives of my children. I would like that every responsibility be entrusted to Me, I would like for more trust to be had in Me. Too often it is said that one has faith but in practice it is not shown.

Knowing how to wait ...

Everyone wants to solve their queries and their problems in a second and if they do not see them resolved they no longer trust Me and turn their backs on Me. They have no patience: they do not know that knowing how to wait is a divine virtue. If you knew how patient God is!

There are souls who say they love Me, it seems they want to detach Me from the cross to take my place. But if I ask them only to be patient, in the attainment of their desires, they despair, and I assure you, they would even have recourse to the devil just to see their will realized quickly.

My daughter, how a behaviour so inconsistent pains Me with the words that are pronounced! Remember what I said to you in the Gospel: *"Not whosoever shall have said, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the Kingdom of the Heavens but he who does the Will of my Father."*

Prayer is of great importance; but if you are not prepared to do my Will you are not consistent. You say in the Our Father: *"Thy will be done,"* but you are just saying it with your lips, if in effect you are not prepared to accept it.

Leave it to Me ...

Prepare, arrange and follow also your material interests too, since it is the duty of all free men to take responsibility also for the smooth running of the family and personal interests, also material. Do it wisely and calmly, with justice and integrity; but when on your part you've done all, leave it to Me: it is I who knocks down and lifts up as needed.

Sometimes I make use also of the greed of thieves and the dishonest to carry out my plan of salvation.

I want for my creatures to live with their hearts detached from all transitory things. If they do not listen to Me and do not do out of love what I desire, sometimes I have recourse to drastic measures and make clean cuts. I do not want souls to be lost!

Life passes quickly, remember it, my children! Every snare that binds you to it cut it off for my sake, so that when you are called you can more readily take flight.

Live your natural life immersed in my divine life. What peace, what serenity, what joy, what confidence I would like to give you!

That's why I said to you at the beginning of this instruction to recollect yourself and think about Me. So that between Me and you there may be an exchange gifts.

You give me your misery, your concerns, your worries. I give you the wealth of my Heart with all that you need for the conquest of the eternal goods and not the fleeting ones.

FAITH AND PRAYER

September 12, 1968

Beloved daughter, I want to talk to you. Do you believe in the Son of God? Do you believe in Me who am speaking to you?

Well then, if you have faith you will see my power. Have I not always worked sensational miracles? I gave sight to the blind, hearing to the deaf, speech to the dumb; I made the lame to walk, I raised the dead and I raised myself up.

Do you think that now my power is reduced? Remember that God is immutable. It is the same God who created the world, who preserves it, who assists one by one his creatures, and who constantly works miracles.

There are miracles that you do not see, but which are no

less great than that of the resurrection of the dead.

To resurrect a soul from the life of sin to the life of grace, the forgiveness of sins, the conversion from a lukewarm life to one of perfection and holiness, are much more important and great, even if they escape your eyes, and if you do not give them the importance they deserve.

If you have faith ...

To obtain from God miracles of any kind faith is needed. I have said to you in the Gospel: *"If you have faith as much as a grain of mustard seed and say to the mountain: 'Cast yourself into the sea,' it will obey you."*

Faith is indispensable, it is the base. Prayer is the means; faith without prayer is not effective. Without prayer faith is not expressed: it is a dead letter. They are like two good inseparable sisters. Faith makes you know God, prayer makes you turn to Him.

Faith will present to your mind God's attributes, his qualities. Prayer, making use of these attributes, dares to present to God your needs and asks to be helped.

Faith presents to you the world ruled by God in all its natural expression, by means of laws already established, but always current, for in God it is all present.

Prayer elevates you to God, that you may be able to invoke from Him the elements to constantly obey God's providential hand, following the laws of nature.

You ask by force of prayer to be preserved from cataclysms, earthquakes, storms, tidal waves, floods and disasters of all kinds harmful to you and to others.

But there are also spiritual disasters that ruin souls. The faith displays them to you with my words, which I repeatedly said in the Gospel: *"What is worth to man to gain even the whole world if then he forfeits his soul?"*

"It would be better for the scandalous man that he put a millstone around his neck and throw himself into the sea, rather than scandalize one of my children."

"If your eye scandalizes you, pluck it out; and if your hand scandalizes you, cut it off. Better to go to Paradise with one eye alone and one hand alone rather than go to hell with both."

First the soul

See, my daughter, how faith makes you see the superiority of the things of the soul over those of the body, and how it makes you prefer its importance.

This is why you should always ask first what regards the soul, then what regards the body. First the goods of the spirit then everything else. Did I not say to you: *"What is the worth of possessing the whole world if then you lose your soul?"*

So then faith shows you the importance of eternal life in respect to the present life. That's why I said to you to ask first of all the salvation of the soul, my Kingdom and then everything else.

When you start to pray (and you can pray continually if you offer Me the actions as acts of love), revive your faith: see Me next to you, working with you and do not be afraid to ask for miracles.

The greater your faith, the more fervent and sincere will be your prayer and more numerous and easy will be the

miracles. They will enter to become part of everyday life. Where you cannot reach, I reach with my grace. Where you do not reach with your impotence, my omnipotence reaches.

Do not be afraid, have trust. *"Do you believe in the Son of God?"* I tell you again. If you believe you will see the fruits of your faith.

Ask and hope against all hope. The only thing you must not do is this: fix the day. You cannot say to the Lord: *"Tomorrow hear me."* For Him tomorrow or next year is the same. He knows how and when He must hear you.

The important thing is that you have faith and pray. Remember how much St. Monica cried for her son Augustine? Finally she obtained a sensational miracle, which honours God and the Church of all times.

Therefore, adjust yourself so, in prayer, made with faith and with confidence. Ask for all the graces you desire, favouring always what is true for eternal life, and the rest will be given to you as well.

PREPARING FOR COMMUNION

September 13, 1968

My daughter, I want to suggest to you two things very important. First of all I want to teach you how to prepare yourself well for Holy Communion.

It is the most solemn act that you can do during the day, and I would like that you give at this encounter all the importance it deserves.

Do not be neglectful, I beg you, in our encounter of love. A bride who does not wait with joy the spouse who comes home after a day of absence, does not make the groom happy.

I come to you after having waited for a whole day and a whole night with a burning desire for you to come into my Heart and you do not want to prepare to come into it? Note well that I said to you: *"To come into my Heart,"* since how can you contain mine that has an infinite greatness? You must come into my Heart, I wait anxiously for you.

It is therefore necessary that you prepare yourself well and I will teach you how. Put yourself, as you did this morning, in the presence of my Mother and beg her with all your heart to perform towards you that delicate office that mothers perform towards their children.

Beg her that she tidy you within, that she wash you from the daily little faults, that she adorn you with her virtues and merits. Then recite with her what the Church places on your lips. Recite the Angelus reflecting well on what you say.

See beside you the Guardian Angel to whom you will entrust your will saying: *"Behold the servant of the Lord, be it done to me according to your word."*

At the time of Communion reflect that a new incarnation will come about in you. I shall become flesh of your flesh, blood of your blood. We will be one, and the flesh and the blood that my Mother gave Me and which I will give to you, will work a total transformation in your life.

Always keep the flame of faith lit in the preparation for

Communion; do not do like the foolish virgins, because faith is essential in the things of God. Put the oil of love and be assured that every Communion thus prepared will bring its spiritual benefits.

A Communion without preparation is an offense to my Heart. Remember and make this known.

PREPARING FOR CONFESSION

September 14, 1968

Dear daughter, the Sacrament of Confession also requires a preparation.

Every Sacrament is a great gift of love on God's part, it is a channel that brings you or increases in you that mysterious water called Grace, which purifies you from sins and quenches your thirst until you no longer feel thirsty.

Remember what I said to the Samaritan woman? *"I will give you to drink a water, the drinking of which you shall no longer have thirst forever."* Such is the mysterious water of grace that is communicated to you through the Sacraments well received.

Confession is one of them. I myself instituted it when, after my Resurrection, I gave my apostles the commission to go throughout the world and to forgive sins. To forgive sins is a divine work: only God can forgive.

My Ministers therefore, represent Me, they act on my command. They are spiritual healings which they work in my name.

Like a patient who goes to the doctor readies himself physically and also mentally to expose to him his ailments, so the sick in soul must recollect himself before Confession, to know his defects and see their roots, if he wants to be helped to remove them by the Divine Physician, represented by my priest.

Remember that Confession is the Sacrament in which you must detest your sins, not excusing them, not concealing them, because then it would become for you a double-edged knife, that is, not a means of forgiveness but condemnation. You would add sin to sin.

How certain confessions grieve Me which are rather a sentimental encounter of two persons meeting, than the encounter with a God of mercy, of goodness and love!

Oh, how much faith I would like for my children to have when they draw near to Me to expose their burden, the weight of their sins, and to receive forgiveness! Some approach Confession worried as much as possible to hide their flaws and eager to make known their virtues. Some in Confession speak about dreams, visions ... and forget reality.

If on rare occasions I allow during sleep or during prayer for certain souls to have special illuminations, they must thank the Lord. All this is not matter for Confession, unless you mistake gifts for merit and therefore you must accuse yourself of pride.

Therefore, bring to the confessional a great faith, great sincerity and seriousness. Listen to the words of the Priest and expose to him the proposal that you intend to do, listen to what he suggests to you.

Receive the absolution reflecting that in that moment the Blood that I shed on the cross falls upon you to purify you. Do not waste this Blood, I beg you!

Invite your Guardian Angel to enlighten you, because the angel of darkness is near the confessionals continually to prevent the Confession bearing its fruits.

Pray every day for your confessor and for all priest confessors. How many dangers my Ministers go up against in this exercise of ministry! The lack of seriousness of women, and the little prayer and mortification from them, puts them in jeopardy and in an occasion of falling.

Pray much, therefore, for priest confessors that they may be merciful judges, dispensers of goodness, enlightened and enlightening, leading souls to virtue and holiness.

Pray once again and always to my Mother, since she is the dispenser of Grace: my Blood that will cleanse your sins, it is her blood.

Beg her to stay close to you, to prepare you, to help you and to thank for you the Lord for having granted to men what they in their misery could not even ask: the forgiveness of sins.

CONTROLLING YOUR CHARACTER

September 15, 1968

Dear daughter, listen to Me. You need to learn to control your character and do everything to render it pleasing to your neighbour so that you can be useful to him and lead him to good.

Character is like a personal touch that distinguishes one person from another, an unmistakable characteristic. To change it completely is not possible: it is like a second nature.

With willpower one can modify it, and one can direct to good what is defective or bad. To make one's character joyful if it is sad by nature, calm if it is furious, active when it is slothful, sensitive if it is hard, is not an easy thing. But with much good will, with vigilance over one's self and especially with God's help, and with the example of the saints one can get to correct it.

The greatest sufferings in families are provoked not by God, who wants all good and happy, but by those who, not moderating their own character, cause confusion, discord and war, at the expense of material health and also of the spiritual life of all.

The first to suffer, for a bad character, is he who has it; therefore, he deserves so much goodness and understanding as well as help, so that he can be corrected.

Moreover, all have defects of character, that is, something by which others are annoyed. Therefore it is well, seeing in others defects, one tries to endure them patiently thinking of one's own.

Try to form a good and malleable character for yourself. If you are loud in your way of expressing yourself, first of all control yourself and learn to ask for forgiveness from those whom you perhaps, have treated badly with your exuberant energy.

If you have a touchy character, remember to combat your

self-esteem. If you are lazy, make the effort and impose on yourself a fixed time in your actions of the day and try not to fall short.

If you are cheerful and lively, if you like noise, think of others who willingly stay in silence and decrease your joyful explosions.

If you are brought to sadness, complaining constantly and with all, consider that your company can be annoying, reflect that everyone has his own cross to carry, and that you must not weigh down that of others.

Seek to see things with greater serenity, also to make your company more pleasing. Examine the defects of your character. Spur yourself in what is good. Constrain yourself in what is evil.

Put goodness as the foundation of your life and act in accordance with it. Take Me as a model, or my Mother. Think for a moment how lovable, sweet, serene and good her character was, and how much self-control, how much patience in sorrow, how much equality of thought and affection, how much constancy in good and in the practice of heroic virtue.

What for you is not possible or seems impossible for you to do, do it for my Mother's sake. You will see that everything will be easier for you, and once you become master of yourself, you will know also how to command others, for whom it will be a pleasure to obey you.

DO NOT JUDGE

September 17, 1968

Dear daughter, write what I keep suggesting to you. Do not be eager to judge your neighbour since you can judge only the outside. I alone see the intentions that drive the actions of men and what seems to you evil, I see well because inspired by good thoughts and good intentions.

Let your opinion on persons be always benevolent even when you really see an evil. You do not know if in the place of those whom you judge harshly you would not have done the same thing. You do not know the extent to which they are tempted, and you do not know by what intentions they are guided.

Always look at everyone with eyes of goodness and mercy asking Me for the salvation of all. In this way you will begin to bring your heart close to God in order to attract to Him, through prayer, those who are far away from Him, perhaps unconsciously, for many reasons beyond their control.

Become a means of salvation and health for all. If your word is desired and can be beneficial, say it in my name, but if you understand that it is not welcome, do not irritate consciences.

Speak to God about those whom you love and beg Him to suggest all those good things that He knows useful to the individuals, and which He alone inspiring them has the ability to perform.

There are exuberant characters who manifest for the love

of God all that they feel in their heart and everything they do and are sometimes misinterpreted. Do not want to judge them because you can be wrong. Their ardent desire for good can push them to act in this determined way, which for them is meritorious even if for you it seems to be open to criticism.

There are characters virtuously meek, and persons who, even if they do not have a specific illness, are in a state of weakness, mental, physical and spiritual: do not judge them because they are people who should be helped and not condemned.

There are people that the occasions, poor education received, bad company, have put on a bad road: help them. Do not judge them. Be always good in your judgments, always more strict with yourselves than with others.

If you judge yourself harshly, you will find yourself very defective, and will be likely to sympathize with the defects of others that will seem much smaller than yours.

Open your eyes well on your neighbour to see where there is a special need of help, a hand to give generously.

As for judging, leave it to the proper authorities.

God alone is the final judge of consciences. Men who are severe with others, are fallacious in their judgment and make themselves guilty, in their pride, of those evils that they believe themselves authorised to judge.

Think more of correcting your defects. As for the defects of others, if you have the authority, point them out with great goodness. Conversely commend to Me all those who seem defective to you, with great love, so that my light may

enlighten them and they can get to perfection.

Let my Mother be your guide, who, although surrounded by evil people when she lived on earth, never wanted to judge, not even Judas, whom she loved tenderly and for whom she strove with such tenderness so that he might repent.

THE SORROWS OF MARY

September 18, 1968

My daughter, in this month in which the Church invites us to remember the sorrows of my Mother, I will show you and explain to you how great is the love that she bears for all men.

She in fact freely subjected herself to a suffering without limit, as to truly border on mine, so as to become with Me a means of redemption.

You are accustomed to remember the seven sorrows that pierced the Heart of my Mother: but take note that her life was all sprinkled with bitter sorrows right from an early age.

Parting from the parents

When as a three year old girl she left the family home to move into the Temple, her tender heart, which loved her parents with the greatest affection, suffered very much for this separation, even though, since being gifted since birth with extraordinary supernatural gifts, she understood the need for this parting. She accepted it as the Will of God, serenely, while her heart was in tears.

In the college of the Temple there were several girls who lived there, getting an education, learning about the Law of the Lord and all those jobs and sciences appropriate to their age.

Everyone noticed the superiority in all things of my beloved and so she became the object of envy on the part of the companions who gave vent to their rage in a thousand ways. Mary understood, she was silent, she forgave, she loved and suffered.

She knew all the prophecies and by divine virtue knew that the world was immersed in the darkest mire; therefore, in the depths of her heart she offered her pains so that the Lord might hasten the Redemption.

The Father saw this soul on earth as a centre of attraction. He listened to her sighs, He picked up her tears, He heard her prayers and pressed his Son to anticipate his coming on earth.

I in my turn burned with the desire to dwell beside the heart of a creature so good, for which I tell you that truly, through the merits of Mary and her invocations was anticipated the redemption of the world.

As soon as she was an adolescent, requiring all Jewish women to get married - each one of them yearned to become the Mother of the Messiah - the Priest of the Temple and the prophetess Anna decided to find her a husband. You can tell how great the pain of my Mother was in having to contract marriage.

Right from her entry into the Sanctuary she had made a

gift of her virginity to God, and thinking of the fortunate one who would be chosen to be the mother of the Saviour, she rejoiced and hoped to be able to be her servant.

For nothing in the world, however, not even in order to become the Mother of God, would she have renounced the promise made to God. She wept all her tears when it was said to her that they had chosen a husband for her, even if by obedience she adhered to the will of her superiors.

So she left the Temple where she had lived out her childhood and adolescence, loving the Lord, her superiors and her companions, to go and live in the humble little house of Nazareth. Her parents were by now dead and she in solitude, work and prayer, prepared herself to fulfil the Will of God.

BRIDE TO JOSEPH

September 19, 1968

My daughter, I want to continue to talk to you about the sorrows that accompanied the life of my Mother and which pierced her Heart.

Know then that, married to Joseph, a chaste and God-fearing man, before living in the same house, Mary received the announcement of the Angel Gabriel who asked her if she accepted to become the Mother of the Son of God who was to take the human nature.

Truly she could answer that she knew not man and did not know how this could happen. But when the angel assured her that my Spirit and my Father's would make her fruitful, she agreed to become the Mother.

In that moment appeared before her gaze all suffering humanity, waiting for the Saviour and she embraced with an act of love and infinite sorrow all creatures of all time until the end of time.

She embraced them in an act of love because, inflamed by the fire of the Holy Spirit, she was able to love all men of the earth as her children and felt for each child, whom she was to redeem and to whom therefore she had to give spiritual life, a real sorrow, like that of each mother who gives birth to her own child.

God already made her part of his mission in the world before she began her special mission in the Church. Overshadowed by the Spirit, the Son of God was able to have from her a body and a life as every man has who comes into this world.

An immense love

I found myself then a prisoner pressed to her maternal heart. And it had been for nine months a real imprisonment of love. To tell you the acts of love that my Mother directed to Me continuously throughout the day, and sometimes for entire nights, is not possible.

We were fused into one single Heart, in one single being, in the same God, so that everything was in the highest degree, as for Me so for her. The redemption of the world began in an immense love.

Joseph observed his sweet creature in the visits he paid her and saw her blossom in beauty and comeliness.

A terrible doubt wounded his heart. How is it possible, he

asked himself, for my little Lily to have been contaminated? And he decided to leave her quietly, without denouncing anything to the Law which inexorably would have condemned her because adultery was punishable by stoning.

O little white flower, my sweetest Mother, how can I tell what was your sorrow that few or no one consider and which hurt you in the depth of your heart? Your husband seemed to doubt your fidelity and your modesty, and was abandoning you.

One word alone would be enough to dispel any doubt, but you wanted to bear this immense pain to be a comfort to all creatures who in the course of the centuries, would have been victims of slanders on what a delicate soul more cautiously guards.

You wanted to be of comfort and help to these souls. You wanted to be the model of forbearance, of abandonment in God, leaving to Him the charge of defending, protecting and making known your innocence.

A continuous act of giving

I am not now about to speak to you of other sorrows and worries that are common to all mothers: those of daily work, those of poverty and those of the exercise of charity which, if done with heart and with care, is heedless of itself and strives for others up to sacrificing oneself completely.

This was in fact the behaviour of my sweet Mother, who strove to be all things to all those who were in need of her work, making her life a continual act of giving.

Elizabeth saw her active and lavishing her care around her until the birth of John the Baptist, and when she understood that she could attend to her duties by herself, Mary took her leave and returned to her humble little house which in her extreme poverty seemed a royal palace to her, it was so clean, tidy and so great were the events that reminded her.

So she spent the months of waiting and by Caesar's edict she had to, with Joseph and in obedience to the law, go to Bethlehem, the cradle of the house of David, to register her own name.

To tell you how painful was that trip is not so easy.

This holy Mother was doubly distressed at every jolt of the donkey: for Me who was pitching in her womb, and for the patient and good husband who suffered seeing suffering.

THE REFUSAL OF BETHLEHEM ...

September 20, 1968

My daughter, resume writing, because I want you to know, at least in part, what were the sorrows of my Mother, so that on this path you can walk secure.

I told you that Mary and Joseph started to travel and certainly you have no idea how uncomfortable it was, both for the winding nature of the road, partly hilly, and for the duration of the time, as well as for the condition in which my dear Mother was, about to give birth to Me.

If at our arrival a little comfortable house had been

waiting for us, my dear wayfarers who brought with them the Master of the world, would have very quickly forgotten the fatigue and suffering of the long journey, but alas, far more pains and humiliations were awaiting them!

Having arrived tired and run down, at dusk, in Bethlehem which was already swarming with people, they went in search of hospitality. Joseph left Mary beside the donkey and knocked at all the inns possible asking, with great humility and from the heart, shelter not so much for himself as for his beloved spouse, close to being a mother.

Some laughed at him, others closed the door in his face, while others showed him other places where they considered they would be better off.

The Heart of my Mother, when she learned that everywhere she is denied even a hayloft where to rest her tender Infant who was to be born and who was the Son of God, was bursting with sorrow. In proportion to it she then increased the love and she was saying to her Son: *"My adored Son, rejected by all, remain beside me, my Love, because I believe and I love you, You are God. I will keep You warm here on my Heart, and give you lots of kisses even though you do not cry and are silent."*

... and the rejection of all time

My sweet Mother, renewed her offering to God, accusing herself a useless servant and faithful. She asked forgiveness for all those who chased them away from their homes, and looking far into the centuries she saw the endless series of people who would have refused their hospitality to her Divine Child, and asked also for them forgiveness from the Father,

while the most bitter sorrow gripped her heart till it bled.

So they wandered around until late at night, until someone came who, moved to pity for those poor creatures, explained how there was a grotto not far away where there was an ox. There they could shelter from the cold of the night.

Behold therefore, the two most holy and simple creatures of the earth heading towards this cave that will lodge the King of Heaven.

My daughter, make sure that the refusal of the Bethlehemites never repeats itself for you, and make sure to call as many people as you can to receive Me in Holy Communion, in order for that bitter pain not to be renewed to Mary, which she experienced shortly before my birth.

Let your Communions be so ardent with love that they serve to repair the indifference, the coldness and the bitter refusals that I get when I knock at the hearts of my children, my Christians, to be hosted by them.

THE ANCHOR OF SALVATION

September 20 (5.00pm)

My daughter, I want to continue to talk to you about my Mother, and let you get to know her better and better so that, in your turn you can make her known and make her loved more and more.

Know therefore this: whoever finds Mary finds the anchor of salvation, whoever finds my Mother finds his mother and with her peace, goodness, charity and all the virtues of which she is Mistress and Queen.

Never fear of exaggerating therefore, talking about her and spreading her devotion, since if my death was necessary to open the gates of Heaven, it is now more essential than ever her motherly work for each soul, to destroy evil and bring her to perfection.

Forgive, daughter, my insistence, but Mother is necessary because life comes from God through her. So I set things right from the beginning of the world.

Surrender yourselves to her, all of you, my children, and you will find the safe harbour. She will teach you the love of God and the Cross: two loves inseparable because at my school she loved so dearly the cross, as to be affixed with Me with the same nails, even if invisible.

IN THE GREATEST POVERTY

September 21, 1968

Daughter, let us continue the lesson on the sorrows of my Mother. Enter with her into the grotto: a sigh of relief and a word of thanks to God, a smile and a "Courage!" to Joseph.

He immediately gets to work to remove the cobwebs and the biggest refuse. Then in a corner, the most hidden and the cleanest, he puts some hay and invites Mary to sit on it. There she kneels down and starts praying.

The donkey next to the ox eats the little hay that Joseph brought it. He also prepares some wood to light a small fire, and he too starts praying, after having asked Mary if she needed anything and if she wanted to be covered with his cloak.

Mary is so absorbed and filled with love that she does not grasp the words of her husband and continues to pray and express her affectionate feelings towards her Divine Son.

A heavenly joy fills her soul. At the same time a thorn pricks her heart bitterly. Her little Child will not even have what every child who comes into this world has, and two large tears line her face.

She laid out beside her a small shirt and some nappies, a swaddling band and a handkerchief. It is all her wealth. At midnight a divine heavenly harmony spreads and at the same time a cry and a little shout. I was born!

My Mother picked Me up, she wrapped Me in swaddling bands after having washed Me with a few tears of joy and of sorrow that abundantly fell from her eyes. She looked at Me, my poor and sweet Mother, as she went on saying the sweetest words of love.

After having adored Me, and called Joseph to do the same, with infinite tenderness Mary picked Me up and took Me to the manger, that the breath of the two mares might warm Me up; then she settled down in prayer with Joseph while the angels sang a sweet lullaby.

The visit of the shepherds with their simple and small gifts brought great relief to my two loved ones, and one of them immediately hastened, together with Joseph, to look for a room we could live in for some time. In fact, they found it and we moved in there.

Joseph had been advised by an angel that the Child would be called Jesus. When eight days after the birth I was

circumcised, they called Me Jesus, which means Saviour.

Forty days later, at the entrance of the Temple, they encountered a holy old man who, placing himself in front of Mary, told her how the sword of sorrow would have pierced her heart, and that her Child would have been for the salvation and for the perdition of many.

As I told you, Mary already knew the prophecies and, enlightened by God, she knew clearly what this divine motherhood had in store for her. She never forgot these things that were her daily torment.

She stroked the blond curls of her Child and was thinking that that little head of gold would have been crowned with thorns. She stroked his soft little hands and little pink feet and recalled that very hard nails would have pierced them.

And that beautiful and delicate little body she saw it before her eyes all bloody and covered with sores and flayed, whereby often squeezing Him to her heart she asked forgiveness for what they would have made Him suffer not only during his passion, but over the centuries.

She used to whisper to Him: *"See, my Jesus, You will be treated like a sheep for slaughter, they will put You on the cross, doing so much, so much evil to You; but You forgive, because even the wicked are all my children and your death saves them."*

Jesus smiled; He understood: He was God.

So suffering never left the heart of my Mother. A suffering deep as the sea, even when nothing appeared on the outside. The fineness and perfection of her mind, which made her

particularly sensitive, sharpened her sufferings so as to make them heroic.

This did not prevent her, however, from assiduously taking care of others to soothe physical and moral evils, and she kept in her heart all the pain, in order not to burden anyone with her immense cross.

THE HARD EXILE

September 22, 1968

Beloved daughter, continue with Me to fathom the heart of my Mother to discover the sorrowful mystery. She has in fact had every experience of human sorrow to be able to console it in others.

Of any sorrow she can say: *"I endured it too; therefore, I can advise and help you, and I can put myself before you as a model."*

Know, then, that after the visit of the Kings from the East who brought comfort to Mary and Joseph, Herod, afraid that the Messiah would in due course take Him off the throne, ordered that all children aged two years and under be killed. Joseph, warned in a dream, had to summon Mary at night in order to announce to her that they had to leave immediately.

Having collected quickly the few essential things, having wrapped the Child in a blanket and bid farewell to the good neighbours close by, they took the road to Egypt.

Mary's heart was swollen with tears. She was abandoned in God and carried with herself the Son of God. But no apparent thing confirmed this truth to her from the moment

that everything was hidden from her eyes. The power of God, which a thousand worlds was able to annihilate, disappeared. A God who fled at night to escape the trap of a man.

Mary practised all the virtues to a heroic degree. And how would she have been able to exercise faith, hope and charity if God had worked continuous miracles beside her?

With anguish in her heart and with her treasure in her arms and sitting on the donkey, they undertook the long journey. Where would they go? They did not know where Providence had guided their steps. Mary had to be able to say to evicted tenants, to the homeless, to the dispossessed, to the poor of every category: *"I also, have suffered like you; trust the Lord: his help will not be lacking to you."*

Having arrived after a long journey they found an empty house. They were in Egyptian territory, therefore, in safety. However, they were far from their homeland, in a foreign land, where everything had to start all over again: providing the necessities of the house, seeking work for Joseph. My Mother also got busy to make herself useful to others, doing those jobs which with so much skill she knew how to do.

The sojourn in Egypt was a life of sufferings, even if brightened by Me, who as a Child grew up next to such wise and holy spouses, giving them my smiles, my kisses and making myself useful, like all good children, in those little family things that they also know how to do.

A few years had gone by when Joseph is warned in a dream of Herod's death and therefore the Holy Family can return to Nazareth. Mary, always obedient to God and to her spouse in a perfect way, makes the return journey. The joy of

seeing her relatives again makes her forget the hardships of the journey and the immense poverty in which we find ourselves.

We returned then to the home of Nazareth. Around it had grown an abundant undergrowth, inside however, nothing had changed and Mary and Joseph helping each other were able to give the house a serene aspect.

I admired the peace and the harmony that my parents had with each other, so as to make Me happy, too.

THE LOSS OF JESUS

September 23, 1968

Resume writing, my daughter, because I want to talk to you about one of the biggest sorrows suffered by my Mother.

When I was twelve years old, as was the custom in the Hebrew religion, the parents had to bring their first-born to the Temple that they might make like an official entrance in the relationship with God and with men.

I was therefore for the first time accompanied myself also. But when, after prayer and services, Joseph and Mary went off to join their own caravans (because the men were separated from the women), I remained in the Temple, while each of them thought I was with the other, the children being able to stay with the father or the mother.

It was thus that at the evening of the first day's journey, finding themselves together, they realized that I was not there. It is difficult to understand how great was the sorrow of my loved ones at that time. With heart to shreds my Mother,

redoing the road already travelled, went about calling with the sweetest names her Son, and complained of her carelessness and accused herself of having been foolish.

She shouted aloud the name of her Child, the best, she said, the most obedient. She asked God for forgiveness and begged Him to give back that precious treasure.

Desolate mothers

To add to her grief she saw over the centuries all the mothers who have lost their children, both materially and spiritually. She saw beside herself so many desolate mothers, weeping and desperate and offered for them her sorrow that they might have consolation and comfort.

But what exacerbated her the most was the thought that many, very many of her children would have rejected the company of her Jesus, and they would have distanced themselves from Him with sin, not bothering to look for Him.

The searching lasted three whole days, until they found Me in the Temple who was questioning and answering the doctors of the Law.

You might ask Me why I allowed my Mother to suffer so much, as I could have advised her that I would have stayed behind.

The main reason was this: to make known to them and to all the parents that the Will of God is greater than any human will, and that the children are to this divine Will, bound to obey unconditionally. The first father to serve and to obey is the Father in Heaven.

I allowed this great suffering to my Mother so that over

the centuries every mother could see in her how one is to behave when a child takes the wrong road or gets lost.

Mothers, you have to do as she, my Mother, did. Weep for yourselves even if you think you've done all your duty. Perhaps you have not prayed enough, perhaps you have not watched enough: therefore, humble yourselves before God.

Call your children, that is, show them all the love of your heart. Do not clash with them, do not curse them, do not abandon them. Look for your children in the church beside the Tabernacle: I will teach you how you can regain them to your heart.

I will give you the strength, the grace, and if you have faith you will find again the lost or missing children. You will find them through that sorrow that Mary suffered, and that you can continue to offer up again to God united to yours, for the redemption of the children.

ALL THE VIRTUES TO A HEROIC DEGREE

September 27, 1968

Daughter, I want you to continue to write about the sorrows of my Mother.

Remember that her life was full of merits, not through the miracles that I performed also through her prayer, but through her virtues exercised to a heroic degree, through the sufferings to which the Lord submitted her and which she accepted, and those which she chose freely.

My Mother knew the value of suffering as a means of expiation and salvation: without sorrow there is no

redemption. She knew what was waiting for Me and to what martyrdom I would have had to undergo, so not only did she suffer beforehand, but wholeheartedly she accepted to join Me in everything.

Daily life lived for thirty years in a humble little house, spent in continual work, in communal prayer and in the exercise of charity, she did not lack all those worries that very poor families have who live on miserable daily earnings.

Frugality, order and thrift were the rule that directed our daily routine, even if with those in need of help of any kind we used to be generous.

A ray of sunshine

My sweet Mother was like a ray of sunshine that spread tranquillity and peace. With her smile full of goodness she encouraged anyone who needed help.

I have already mentioned to you that most of the night she spent in prayer, but her greatest joy was when the whole family gathered for communal prayer.

So with so much simplicity, with the exercise of faith and daily sacrifice, she was preparing to follow Me in my public life, which was to last three years. Begun with a miracle worked through her intercession, it seemed honours and triumphs were being prepared. But if you knew, my daughter, what tribulations and what sorrows exacerbated continuously her soul!

Before beginning public life my holy foster father had passed away. Assisted by us, his end had truly been that of the just man. My Mother suffered a lot, and after it was

necessary that she also did some women's work in exchange for some basic necessities for her and my livelihood.

Co-Redemptrix

My Mother took everything with great serenity and made a virtue of every necessity, that is to say she did for love what life forced to do by force. I cannot describe how great were her troubles when, having started public life, she saw or heard what others did or said against Me.

The insults, the abuse and proud ignorance of that people who boasted having Abraham as father and who were preparing to put to death the Son of God, tormented the Heart of My Mother. On the other hand she had to be the co-Redemptrix of the human race and I had to share also with her my works, since as a man I felt the need of comfort in communicating them to her.

So when I was disgusted by the arrogance of the Pharisees and of their malice, or when the misunderstanding, jealousy and stubbornness of my apostles and disciples exasperated Me, I went to Mother. I was sure that resting my head on her heart complete joy would return: her smile was like a soothing and fragrant bread that gave Me courage and peace.

I always speak to you as man, because as God I would have no need of anything, but to be able to say, "*Learn from Me*," I had to undergo all the tribulations to which men meet up with.

YOUR TEARS WILL BE WIPED AWAY

September 21, 1968

Dear child, sorrow knocks at your door: welcome it as a gift from Heaven.

Turn your mind to God who with sorrow, under whatever form it appears to you, serves to cleanse, to redeem and sanctify souls.

Suffering, when it is produced by the sorrow of a moral or spiritual evil that has struck a soul dear to you already serves for the salvation of the soul that perhaps otherwise would be lost.

Do not reason too much about things, and do not demand they go as you wish.

Offer to God your suffering in union with my sorrows and those of my Mother and then abandon yourself to the Will of God.

Never despair!

Let your sorrow be contained and dignified. Never let it leak out, since you would make suffer those who love you, and make laugh those who envy you or otherwise do not understand you.

Come, daughter, with your sorrows near my Heart, confide with Me: tell Me about what makes you suffer with the confidence of a good daughter and do not doubt that your tears will be wiped away.

Pray and offer up. Every tear is a gift that you can give to God for the salvation of your loved ones and it is a spiritual treasure for eternal life.

I AM IN GLORY

September 23, 1968

(Padre Pio) My children, I am with you, I am your spiritual father. I follow you and bless you.

Do not be grieved, I am in the glory of Heaven, I see you and I guide you. Fear nothing: follow the narrow paths, those of love, the cross and prayer. Suffering redeems and lifts up when it is offered in God's grace and with love. Treasure the teachings that you receive, which are a gift from Heaven, and stay always united in the Lord.

My daughter, continue writing. Let your meetings be an encouragement and seedbed of good. I am with you to make them fruitful and beneficial. Always do good, love the poor, help them, call them your brothers, because they are the beloved of Jesus.

Love all and bless the Lord before and after your every good deed, which you always direct to Him.

I assist and bless this Cenacle, which in a special way I have taken under my protection.

Q. - Jesus, do You want to talk to me?

A. - Yes, my child, write down what I am suggesting to you: Invite all those who attend the Cenacle to pray for the glorification of my faithful servant and to ask for material and spiritual graces through his intercession.

I want that as soon as possible be glorified this faithful servant of mine, who has spent his life loving Me, imitating Me and making Me loved.

DO NOT EXCUSE YOURSELF FROM WORK

September 25, 1968

My daughter, put before your desires, even if holy, the fulfilment of your daily duties.

The work to which every creature is subject is not something optional, but mandatory. You must not therefore, excuse yourself too easily.

The mission to which I have called you continually demands your presence in the house. The mission of mother comprises assistance and vigilance. To be always present means attracting the help of the Lord also as a reward of a limitless fidelity.

It is also a duty of mutual charity, since, if the children must not neglect their mothers and must be of help to them, mothers also must not easily stay away from them, who can have and they have certainly need of their help.

Duty performed out of love gives much joy to all the family and is a source of happiness and peace, while it keeps the order that is so dear to God.

Learn therefore, to give up everything that, though to your taste, are not a part of your duties, if you want to reach that perfection to which God calls you.

Sanctify the day with the perfect fulfilment of your duties. Perform with diligence and perfection every little thing and everything will return to the glory of God and advantage of the family in which I have placed you.

PRAY FOR THE POPE

September 26, 1968 (3.00 am)

My daughter, Today is the birthday of my Vicar on earth: I invite you to raise an ardent prayer for him.

Never be afraid to be wrong to pray for the Head of the Church, since the cross that rests upon his shoulders is very heavy and it is the duty of everyone to help him carry it.

I give him my special assistance. The Holy Spirit assists him continuously, but it pleases Me to see the children, fond of the Father, to beseech the Lord to give him the most beautiful graces.

It is true that many people every day pray according to his intentions to gain the Holy Indulgences; but many do so without a thought of love for him, as if it were only a prayer of self-interest.

I repeat to you, my children, pray for the Pope, whose responsibility exceeds human strength, whereby divine help is indispensable to him, which I will grant more abundantly through your prayer.

A huge sacrifice

Learn to offer up for him many sacrifices and sufferings, for the weakness of human nature and the lack of rest, staying continuously on the breach and the submitting to a discipline, to a timetable, at his age, is a huge sacrifice.

Well then, love him, children! The charity that you do for him will be rewarded by myself in a special way, since I hold done to Me what you do to those who so well represent Me.

Do not ever neglect to be interested in what he commands, counsels and desires, for those who listen to him, listen to Me. Do it so as to be able to explain and defend my teachings that come to you through him.

Too many people do not believe in his infallibility when he speaks as Head of the Universal Church and think they have a right to argue his word, to blame and mock him. Let them remember that, if every apostle and everyone called is dear to Me as the pupil of my eye, so I was able to say, "*Whoever despises you despises Me,*" all the more reason I can say about my Vicar, for whom I bear so much favouritism.

There are persons who make comparisons, and think they can judge the more and less saintly. Know that saintliness most often is hidden to your eyes, and it is absolutely not possible to measure it with the human eye. You will see in Paradise how many blunders you have made on earth.

The suitable Pope

How many times you make a mistake in judging! It is certain that every age has the Pope suitable for that historic moment. What if then, humanly speaking, there were or will be some of my representatives not up to their task. That should be considered a real punishment from God, due to the carelessness and the indifference of the faithful who failed to pray and to sacrifice for him. I invite you to observe what happens in the world so that you may learn to regulate yourself.

You will hear many who, with the passing away of a Pope, bitterly grieve over him saying that he was holy, good and

perfect. Those same people, perhaps, when he was alive, criticized him and laughed at him. Now they grieve over him, not because they were affectionate towards the Pope, but to create disaffection, that is, to move hearts away from the current Pope.

Be well on your guard, because a true Christian sees in the authority of the Pope a gift of Heaven; therefore, if he praises the work of his predecessors, let him not despise that of the present; indeed let him busy himself so that all may surround him to be his affectionate and devoted children.

The Pope's position is very delicate and difficult. Having to speak the truth to all when this hurts, having to refute error, supporting principles of social order to which men badly subject themselves, is not such a simple thing and which attracts to him, from those who feel affected, severe reactions and antipathies.

Full adhesion

That is why the most affectionate and devoted children must support him in his tough daily battle, and must not let their help and their complete adhesion to him be lacking.

Through the Communion of Saints every member of my Church can be of help to the other. Well, I would like there to be a competition among you in offering to my Vicar the best of what you have: the first fruits of your prayer, the promptness of your obedience up to sacrificing your life for him.

I assure you that the most devoted sons of the Church and the Pope will have a special prize from Me in Heaven, and

they will see my Mother, who is also the Mother of the Church, in a very special light.

TO LOVE SUFFERING

September 26, 1968

(Padre Pio) Dear children, I am here with you by the will of God, of the Merciful Jesus. My body also will be glorified by God and men.

My body has served as an instrument of good for the glory of God and the good of souls. The sacred stigmata, that were impressed by Jesus on my body, shine with imperishable light in Paradise.

You also possess a body that, after having undergone decomposition in the grave, will shine with immortal light in Heaven. My children, use always your body as an instrument of good.

Also in this, imitate my Mother and be serene. I bless your hands to be used always to do works of good and mercy. I bless your mind and your heart. I bless you and your families and I wait for you all in Heaven.

You are all my spiritual children and you all have to come with me. See you again, children. Think of me and ask God to make you love suffering as I have loved it. Do you know how big the reward is? Well worth it, I assure you, to suffer all the pains of life to reach it!

You do well to pray for the Supreme Pontiff. I have always put him first in my every supplication.

I DO NOT WANT TO STAY IDLE

September 27, 1968

(Padre Pio) My daughter, you wanted me close and I have come.

Know that in God distances no longer exist and everything works out very easy. Souls see and love each other in God, whereby the affection that binds us to creatures on earth becomes perfect.

One asks for all the true good, that is, their salvation, which is realized with a delicate working of Providence. When creatures of your world ask for graces, they are like selected, and the Lord, who knows all and to whom all is present, never grants a grace that can be detrimental to eternal life.

This is why many pray and are not heard.

My daughter, invite everyone to have a great trust in God and to abandon themselves into his arms asking only for the fulfilment of his will.

Commend to me all the needy, because I do not want to be idle in Heaven, but, for the Lord will allow me, I want to help everyone. On your part, love all those whom you approach.

I recommend to you: if you approach the rich, invite them to help the poor; if you approach the poor, invite them to patience and forbearance, so that everyone can be saved.

Accept the crosses, my children, because with the cross you get to the top of Calvary, to the Resurrection, and then to Heaven.

Love the Heavenly Mother whom I have always loved with tender filial love during the thirty years of my life among you.

You will see how much care she will have for you, from how many dangers she will preserve you, and how she will make you grow in virtue and in the love of God.

Love each other and help each other.

Do not be jealous, envious and proud, because these things are contrary to the charity of Christ.

DO NOT LOSE SERENITY

September 28, 1968

Daughter, learn to observe every private or public event with the eyes of faith. Only in this way you can give an account of everything.

So did my Mother and only for this reason she was able to keep the peace in all the events of life.

See the provident hand of God in everything and you will see that everything will seem to you to proceed according to your wishes.

If you are in darkness you seek for the light; but if you walk continuously in the light of the sun, what else do you need?

God is the sun that must continuously illuminate your life, since you are immersed in Him. Never close your eyes because God is the light that illuminates your mind; entrust yourself to Him, He will not abandon you.

If you look at every event with human eyes you will see a lot of things wrong, unjust, defective. If you look at them again with the eyes of God, that is to say with the eyes of faith, with the distance of time you will see that everything had been expertly guided.

A wrong tactic, in time of war, can lead to a defeat; but if you have faith and obey your Captain, who is infallible in guiding your combat, you will surely win.

Joan of Arc

Do not worry that you have too many thoughts, too many things to fix, too much opposition to overcome. Others, even more weak and incapable than you, have overcome far greater obstacles.

Remember Joan of Arc? She led an army to battle and knew no weapons.

Always be serene and humble. Serenity is a guarantee of success, because everything you do you can ponder. Humility attracts you God's help all the time.

Things of all kinds: those spiritual and those material, are resolved with a lot of patience, with a lot of calm, with a lot of trust, with a lot of hope, not separated by the force of the will, which is required in every action; because it is the good will that will be rewarded by God.

When you find yourself as bound by a thousand things you cannot and do not know how to solve, turn your gaze to Heaven and pray with faith.

If you call to your help your father or mother, they come and help you. Do you want God to be deaf to your calls?

Of one thing I beg you: never lose serenity and peace, because just one restless or angry person is enough to ruin the peace of a family; while, especially by the mother, if she is serene, so much tranquillity is propagated which gives harmony and joy to everyone.

Remember: man lives by faith; and with faith you solve everything.

ST. MICHAEL

September 29, 1968

My daughter, listen to Me well. Often invoke St. Michael, the Archangel who presides over the nine Angelic Choirs and whom my Vicar, by the will of the Holy Spirit, wanted as a defender of the Church.

Often turn your thought to him, because his power and strength is great. He is the terror of the rebellious angels, whom he beat in the tremendous battle between the good and bad angels, whom he sank into the abyss.

He tirelessly defends the Church from heresies and helps every soul that cries out to him with devotion and love to win the battles of life, especially those against the demons.

He is the Archangel of humility and enjoys teaching the practice of this virtue to men who ask him for it. His cry, "*Who is like God?*" (which is the meaning of his name), expresses the much needed virtue of humility, which is to recognize the greatness of God in comparison to our nothingness.

Ask for humility through his intercession for all men on earth, and especially for rulers who, if they were guided by

the thought of the greatness of God, they would not hesitate to want and to work so that among nations peace may reign.

Pride in fact blinds man and makes him selfish and wicked.

Pray to him, therefore, for all the nations of the world, besides the Church, so that once again he puts order in the world where demons are causing great carnage.

Put him as defender of your home, so that he may keep the devil and evil of any kind far away.

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- Volume XXI - 7 July 1977 to 27 October 1977
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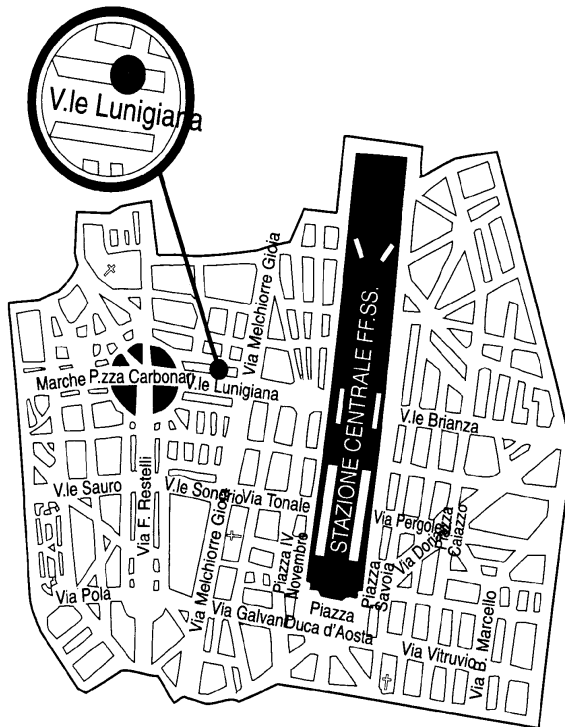
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Cenacle of the Divine Mercy

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THOUGHTS AND REFLECTIONS 3

From the writings of Mamma Carmela



The Message of Merciful Love was received by Mamma Carmela during a period which lasted some ten years, from 1968 to 1978. It ended in the year that Rome had at last lifted the suspension on the Divine Mercy revelations to Sister Faustina, who was subsequently canonised by Pope John Paul II on April 30, 2000 in St. Peter's, Rome.

In 1968, in the city of Milan, a widow with a large family, who had given her whole life to works of Mercy in her city, was praying one evening when she heard a voice that said: *“You will be another witness to my Divine Mercy. I will bless you and give you special graces. I ask your help as a beggar asks alms. Will you help Me? I want you to find new apostles, and once again spread my message of Merciful Love to the ends of this earth.”*

On March 22, 1970 Sister Faustina herself gave a message to Carmela and her Mother of Divine Love Prayer Group, she said: *“It is not the first time that I come among you, but it is the first time that I wish to speak. I am Sister Faustina and I ask you to make with particular devotion the Novena of Mercy, so that all men will begin to believe in the mystery of salvation, which is contained in the devotion to the Divine Mercy.”*

Carmela Carabelli was born in Melegnano, Italy on May 9, 1910. She died in the peace of Christ on November 25, 1978. Since 1968 she received, almost daily, messages from Jesus Christ as the Merciful Jesus, and from the Blessed Virgin as the Mother of Divine Love. She transcribed straight away into notebooks all that was said, without hesitation or correction afterwards, in the form of conversations with Jesus, who spoke about His Father, the Father of all men, and of His Mother, very tenderly; and so lovingly of his foster father St. Joseph, and about many other saintly people, and through this privileged person to all the world, for these writings are meant for all who wish to seek and find God.

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COVERING THE PERIOD FROM

24 June 1968 to 29 September 1968