

21 *What I suffer is not too much. Patience is necessary to follow the Chief of the elect.*

“Do not worry too much about me. I am well at present and do not suffer too much. If it pleased the Lord to send me greater sufferings, greater humiliations, of which I have sometimes had the view, He would give me in His great mercy, more graces to help me bear them, not only with patience but with joy. Patience is also necessary for you; let us ask it reciprocally for each other. The cross is common to us, let us receive it from the hand of our Father, it is He who sends it to us for designs which are known to Him and which all tend to His greater glory and to the greater good of those whom He loves. I cannot doubt it any more than you; let us abandon ourselves without reserve to His good pleasure; that He may do with us what pleases Him; it is our duty, our happiness, and our glory to obey and conform our will to Him in everything. The divine Chief of the elect has seemed to succumb under the blows of His enemies; they have triumphed; His friends have been in tears. But it is in seeming to succumb that He has entered into His glory and that He has brought down His enemies and trampled them forever under His feet. If we should be treated in this way, would we have anything to complain of? *Can there be for us, even in heaven, any more honorable lot than that which gives us more of a resemblance to Jesus suffering and humiliated?*”

Letter 2a195 to Mme de Carcado, July 1804.