

5. Extract of the first Memoir to the Bishops of France 1798

Historical Documents, pg 104

All will remember that as Daughters of the Heart of Mary, they are in the world, without being of the world, that they are there only to spread the good odour of Jesus Christ, after the example of the illustrious virgins of the first centuries of Christianity, who, like them, lived in the world, and many of whom sealed their faith with their blood, they must no longer live for themselves, they belong entirely to their divine Spouse, and that whatever is in them, whatever they may have, must be used for his glory and for the good of his Church. They will also recall that, they were specially chosen to give back at the end of time to the Queen of the Virgins the honors which people claimed to rob her of. They must be intimately convinced that Marie, who, in all times, was the refuge and the boulevard of the Christian world, will be so more particularly in these last ages, where the assaults of hell will be more violent. Convinced further that they can do nothing more agreeable to the Son of God than to honor his Mother, that to honor her is to honor Him ; that it is Him that we follow by following her, and that to rest in the Heart of Mary is to occupy the very center of the Heart of Jesus. The Daughters of the Heart of Mary must strive always to render to Mary the deepest homage, to vow to her the tenderest affection, to cherish, revere her privileges and her greatness. But what this august Mother expects especially from the Daughters of her Heart is that they resemble her and that they tirelessly apply themselves to forming their heart on hers, as on the most perfect image of the Heart of her divine Son, becoming daily more humble, more gentle, more patient, more obedient, more interior, more free from all that is tangible, more crucified with Jesus, more closely united to God by constant prayer and the habitual practice of self-denial.

Such is the spirit, which must direct the conduct of the Daughters of the Heart of Mary. Full of disdain and detached from worldly vanities, eager for everything that can bring them closer to the Divine Spouse, each member will fulfill the duties of her state with the greatest possible exactitude, not for human objectives but for supernatural and divine motives. In seeking a position under the direction of Obedience, they will consider the needs of the faithful and the glory of God rather than their own natural taste in the matter. Those obliged to provide for themselves through difficult work, will take care to sanctify its every moment. Those in service will ennoble their state by the sublimity of their sentiments. Those who are more free, will place their time and their means in the service of good works. In accordance with the rule of Obedience, their life will be divided between prayer, the relief of the poor, and work suited to their state in life. All will conduct themselves in such a way that they can be the model of people in a similar state.

