

## **9. To DHM with Carmelites 1807 to build on charity**

*Circular Letters*, Letter to the Daughters of the Heart of Mary residing with the Carmelites, p.217-218. October 1807

It is charity that edifies, it crowns the edifice of perfection. You will edify in proportion as you advance in charity; but it is important that you understand in what the edification that you owe to your sisters, to your companions consists. It does not consist in doing extraordinary things, in saying many prayers, in practicing great penance or works of supererogation or those unusual actions that would make others say that you are a saint. Not at all. If you try to edify by these means you will make a great mistake. Secret pride will have blinded you.

Edification consists in fulfilling the most common Christian duties, but carefully, constantly, and as perfectly as possible. It means avoiding anything that might offend God or wound our neighbor. It means allowing ourselves nothing that is unworthy of a Christian, showing the truest devotion towards God, watching over ourselves, keeping in spirit and in heart the lowest place, and doing every charitable duty towards our neighbor. This is what Christian edification requires.

For religious edification, we must omit none of these things; indeed we must do them perfectly, but we must add great detachment from the things of earth, death to ourselves, modesty and perfect obedience and as we have already said, extreme fidelity to observe the specific Rules of the Institute that we have joined.