

Shrine edit
2021
When I learned of your decision I understood at once it was that of Jesus, and I said to Sister Marie of the Trinity: "We must get to work; let's pray very much. What a joy if we are answered *at the end of Lent!*" Oh! infinite mercy of the Lord, who really wants to answer the prayer of His little children. *At the end of Lent* one more soul was consecrated to Jesus. It was a real miracle, a miracle obtained by the fervor of a humble novice!

How great is the power of *Prayer!* One could call it a Queen who has at each instant free access to the King and who is able to obtain whatever she asks. To be heard it is not necessary to read from a book some beautiful formula composed for the occasion. If this were the case, alas, I would have to be pitied! ~~Outside the Divine Office which I am very unworthy to recite,~~ I do not have the courage to force myself to search out *beautiful* prayers in books. There are so many of them it really gives me a headache! and each prayer is more *beautiful* than the others. I cannot recite them all and not knowing which to choose, I do like children who do not know how to read, I say very simply to God what I wish to say, without composing beautiful sentences, and He always understands me. For me, *prayer* is an aspiration of the heart, it is a simple glance directed to heaven, it is a cry of gratitude and love in the midst of trial as well as joy; finally, it is something great, supernatural, which expands my soul and unites me to Jesus. *more life breath*

Agony
However, I would not want you to believe, dear Mother, that I recite without devotion the prayers said in common in the choir or the hermitages. On the contrary, I love very much these prayers in common, for Jesus has promised *to be in the midst of those who gather together in His name.*⁽³²⁴⁾ I feel then that the fervor of my Sisters makes up for my lack of fervor; but when alone (I am ashamed to admit it) the recitation of the rosary is more difficult for me than the wearing of an instrument of penance. I feel I have said this so poorly! I force myself in vain to meditate on the mysteries of the rosary; I don't succeed in fixing my mind on them. For a long time I was desolate about this lack of devotion which astonished me, for I

(324) Matthew 18: 20.

Difficulty in prayer

love the Blessed Virgin so much that it should be easy for me to recite in her honor prayers which are so pleasing to her. Now I am less desolate; I think that the Queen of heaven, since she is my *MOTHER*, must see my good will and she is satisfied with it.

Sometimes when my mind is in such a great aridity that it is impossible to draw forth one single thought to unite me with God, I *very slowly* recite an "Our Father" and then the angelic salutation; then these prayers give me great delight; they nourish my soul much more than if I had recited them precipitately a hundred times.

The Blessed Virgin shows me she is not displeased with me, for she never fails to protect me as soon as I invoke her. If some disturbance overtakes me, some embarrassment, I turn very quickly to her and as the most tender of Mothers she always takes care of my interests. How many times, when speaking to the novices, has it happened that I invoked her and felt the benefits of her motherly protection!

Often the novices say to me: "You have an answer for everything; I believed I would embarrass you this time. Where do you go to get everything you say?" There are those who are simple enough to believe I can read their soul because it has happened that I anticipated them by saying what they were thinking. One night, one of my companions⁽³²⁵⁾ made a resolution to hide something from me which was causing her much suffering. I met her in the morning and there was joy in her face when she was speaking to me. Without responding to what she was saying, I said to her with great conviction: "You are sad about something." If I had made the moon fall at her feet, she could not have looked at me with greater surprise. Her astonishment was so great that it even took hold of me, and for an instant I was seized with a supernatural fright. I was really sure I didn't have the gift of reading souls, and this surprised me all the more because I had been so right. I felt that God was very close, and that, without realizing it, I had spoken words, as does a child, which came not from me but from Him.

Dear Mother, you understand that everything is permitted to the novices; that they must be able to say what they think,

(325) Sister Martha of Jesus testified to this.