

shcJ

CORNELIA CONNELLY

ANTHOLOGY



SELECTIONS
FROM THE WRITINGS OF
CORNELIA CONNELLY

COMPILED BY
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Editor's Notes: It has been our intention to present the texts in their original form.

CC refers to "Writings of the Servant of God, Cornelia Connelly, Foundress of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus."

D refers to "Documentations Presented by the Historical Commission for the Beatification and Canonization of the Servant of God, Cornelia Connelly, Foundress of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus."

The digits following CC and D refer to the volume and page numbers.

Illustration by Philomena Power, SHCJ

LIFE IN CHRIST FOR MISSION

SPIRIT AND MISSION

Remember, of yourselves you can do nothing, but in God and for God and with God you can do all things.

D 74:362

God alone.

CC 30:15

You must take for your pattern the Holy Child Jesus, not only to love him and his Blessed Mother, but to imitate him as he lived with her in the house of Nazareth. . . . You must learn then, how he looked, how he acted, and how he prayed.

CC 30:10

Be full of joy . . . seeking and loving the poverty, suffering and obedience of our Divine Model. Great in humility, little in pride.

CC 8:90

O God help me to live, not I but Jesus in me, in his spirit of sacrifice and suffering with only God in view — the reparation of his glory and the salvation of souls — for this end even suffering becomes sweet.

CC 21:80

Simplicity seeks God, purity finds and enjoys him.

CC 30:16

If you have faith, you will learn the value of a suffering and hidden life, and it is to this life you are especially

called by the very name you bear. Be then like the Holy Child Jesus in your thoughts, in your words, and in your actions, cherishing diligence and fidelity in what is called little by daily occurrence and be persuaded that nothing is little with God, if it is in the practice of virtue. God and I. Fidelity.

CC 8:92

Take the words of the Saviour with the humility of a little child, and how wise it is of the Almighty to prove us by exacting this humility.

CC 1:6b

Love what he loves and thus make our life one with him, being in one continued act of love, from night till night and from year to year.

CC 8:88

I wish we could pray so fervently as to obtain for all the true spirit of the Holy Child and the love of all that he loved and taught. Prayer and self-denial will obtain this if we persevere in humility. Humility must be dear to us as the apple of our eye, for all true charity lies founded on humility which is always mistrustful of self and full of confidence in God.

CC 8:118

Vigilance, humility and fidelity. These . . . are always ready to brighten the clouds of our own natural defects, turning these defects even into some hidden treasure to be stored up for heaven, and at the same time bringing with them the strength of a life hidden in God; and it is in this obscurity from all human view that the divine light shines, and in this hidden life we are clothed with

our coat of mail that we may be enabled to fight spiritually. CC 8:91

Lord, help me to kiss the cross that thou sendest, for in this there is no nature or vainglory. CC 21:50

Still we accept the cross as our Lord's best blessing. CC 6:105

Take the cross he sends as it is and not as you imagine it ought to be and he will bless you. CC 7:57

Act with a single heartedness and the Almighty will bless you with a faith and a peace that will enable you to go through with happiness all the misery that troubles this life. May he guide you. CC 1:46

Now we must delight in him by our hourly actions of charity, and by our passive cooperation not resisting the love that would fill our poor hearts. Let us not rest . . . for we are ourselves the only obstacles to the overflowing of his Divine Love. CC 8:94

Give me, O Lord, a love full of action; a love patient in labour, exact in daily employments, pure in intention, so that I may ever accomplish the things that are most pleasing to thee. CC 54:26-27

“ Behold the bridegroom cometh. Go ye forth to meet him! ” Meet him prepared with acts of those virtues which he expects of you. Meet him with your lamp trimmed with the oil of charity, doing the smallest action with great love.

CC 29:5

Keep yourself in the presence of our good good God who is all truth and gives the spirit of truth and simplicity to all who walk in his holy presence.

CC 1:24

O my God! bless a hundredfold all our benefactors and friends, forgive our enemies, and turn their hearts to thyself, O Infinite Greatness, Infinite Wisdom, Infinite Power, Infinite Love, that in turning to thy Infinity all may be drawn to thee alone, see thee alone, love thee alone, and live for thee alone for all eternity. Amen.

CC 30:17

Work and prayer, prayer and work. Neither are as they ought to be till God, not you, work and pray. Let him reign in your soul and in every movement of your body, “ not I but Christ in me.”

D 63:67

Diligence is love. Sursum corda.

CC 54:10

When we labour for God he alone can be our reward.

CC 7:106

Union with the will of God and a heartfelt desire that he may be known, blest and served by all mankind is

a constant act of adoration — that is of interior adoration. We may carry this into all our actions everywhere with very little trouble. CC 7:69

To do anything well we must do it with our heart, with our mind and with our strength for the love of God, of ourselves and of our neighbour. CC 1:27

You must not hide the gifts God has given but use them in his service, by instructing others and imparting to them the knowledge that will help them to love and serve God and save their souls. D 76:127

I wish you to learn how to interchange severity and firmness with mildness and mercy, so as not to allow yourselves to be turned away from what has been determined upon to be acceptable to God; and may you have the strength of mind to resist the weakness of many, not losing confidence by reason of contradictions, not suffering yourselves to be drawn by entreaties from that which reason and the service of God demand, not allowing yourselves to be elevated by prosperity nor dejected by adversity, being prepared, were it necessary, to submit even to death for the love and in the service of our dear Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. CC 8:84

Let them generally lead their pupils by love rather than fear. CC 37:80

The pupils must be watched over and spoken to with the greatest sweetness and charity. CC 37:87

Trust the children and never let your confidence in them be easily shaken. Confidence begets confidence. Let them show themselves in their true colours and then we shall see the highlights and what needs toning down.

D 74:324-325

Be accurate in all you teach, in all you say, in all you do; be accurate above all in your statements. D 74:364

Let us joyfully take pains and accept of labour, piece by piece, week by week, and day by day, and thus make sure of our victory.

CC 37:Preface

Though we so well know that great things are achieved only by untiring labour and suffering, we sometimes forget that in training and teaching . . . it is absolutely necessary to walk step by step, to teach line by line, to practise virtue little by little in act after act, and only by such acts of virtue as are suited to the age and stage of moral and intellectual development of those we are guiding. Let us not want "to fly" by ourselves lest we leave our pupils behind to be lost in a mist. Line by line and step by step in all learning and in all virtues form the whole educational system.

CC 37:Preface

Let all engrave these words in their hearts and daily recall them to mind: I came not into religion to be ministered unto but to minister unto others and to be ready to give my life for the salvation of souls. My Jesus, yes always to thy pleasure and no to my own, when not for thee alone.

CC 22:25-26

We must begin with the poor, and secure their faith if we can, and the faith of their children. D 76:64

Be firm in your duty, but do not wound your neighbour, for there is a wide difference between firmness and severity. CC 54:8

Stiffness and rigour will not bring forth love and these are not the spirit of the Holy Child. But pains-taking for the eagerness of love will always bring forth delicious fruit. CC 8:76

It is wisdom itself to know how to profit by experience and this not only by our own experience but by the experience of others. CC 41:10

Difficulties exist only to be overcome. D 73:177

We never know what we can do until we try. Perseverance gains the crown. D 76:44

They must strengthen themselves in hope and trust in God, in self-mistrust which has for its companion true humility, giving that strength which is the strength of God. They must enkindle that charity within themselves which will make them take to heart the interests of God and of their neighbour, so that as far as possible, without sparing themselves, they should procure the good of their neighbour. A.M.D.G. CC 54:66

I'm cosmopolitan, the whole world is my country; and heaven is my home.

D 73:253

I wish with all my heart I had five hundred to take over to America this year . . . if only you knew the wants of a vast and new country your heart would warm with zeal.

CC 14:52

It is not so much on the good that we shall do to the children here that I count, though that will be great, if we introduce in our school and teaching the gentle spirit of the Holy Child Jesus; but I look forward to great benefit to ourselves from the contact with the French Church. We shall gain far more than we can give.

D 75:510

God grant that we may examine well our works, and labour daily to follow the counsel of Jesus.

CC 54:40

Our aim is only the greater glory of God and the good of souls wherever we are: the good of the mission (and of the diocese) is one with our desires and interest in our work. Our own interest as a community once secured is for the interest of the diocese and for no other. The perfection of each individual work makes up the whole in the beautiful order of the Church and accords with the order of God in heaven and on earth.

CC 2:77

CONSECRATION IN COMMUNITY

I wish to follow my Lord, poor, chaste and obedient.
I abandon myself to thee, O my God, and beg of thee to
preserve me from all illusion and to keep me in the holy
justice of humility.

CC 21:38

I hope always to be able to do something for his glory,
be it only in not resisting his grace.

CC 21:36-37

O my God! If all this happiness is not to thy greater
glory and the good of my soul, take it from me. I make
the sacrifice.

D 76:156

In the service of God, nothing is little, and those things
which appear trifling in our eyes are the very things
which God loves; for he regards not great things, but
simply seeks obedience and the heart. . . . If a king were
to demand a flower that I held in my hand, would it
not be a great fault to refuse it on the plea of desiring
to bestow on him a rare plant which I did not possess?
So it is with Almighty God. Let us simply give him
what he asks of us.

CC 54:34

Give Pierce, self, children, all to the Blessed Virgin.

CC 21:42

CHASTITY

The more we love God the more perfectly we shall be
in the joy and liberty of his children — forgetting our-
selves and rejoicing in him.

CC 8:98

Be faithful; trim your lamps with the oil of fidelity, especially by fidelity in little things. This is the cooperation with divine grace. This will . . . send you on to all that our Blessed Lord asks of you. CC 8:86

I will have no reserves with my God. D 73:191

Place thyself, O Lord, as a seal upon my forehead, that I may be one of those who follow the Lamb. CC 31:5

O charity patient! O charity kind! Charity bearing all things. Charity full of hope, charity thinking no evil, rejoicing in all good, possess me, rule me, inflame me that I may remain in God and God in me forever.

CC 30:22

Refuse no sacrifice that would be for his greater glory. Know, love, serve. Mortify nature one day at a time. A.M.D.G. Gloria Patri . . . CC 21:19

Christ, then, is to live: no longer I, but Jesus — poor, obedient, suffering. Each of these includes every virtue. Each speaks humility, each charity. CC 24:7

What is it that dies here in this manner? Only that which is not worthy to live — pride, frivolity, vanity, caprice, weakness, vice and passion. We do not put to death, but, on the contrary, we reanimate and we fortify everything which is worthy of life, that is to say —

strength and true courage, forgetfulness of self, virtue and oblation of ourselves to God. Yes, O my soul, it is necessary that you should be buried in the earth . . . but after this . . . you will reappear laden with the fruits of true life. By means of this death you will have become the salt that preserves, the light that illumines, the food of souls, and the wheat of Christ. D 64:67

Give to God your flesh and he will give you his Spirit. Watch over your senses and he will guard you. Mortify yourself in little things and he will render you victorious on great occasions. CC 31:76

Have I been watchful over my heart? this heart, of which God is so jealous, does it love him above all things? CC 54:28

Give me, O Lord, great simplicity of intention and purity of heart that I may satisfy thee. CC 21:43

I feel quite sure you have . . . the soul-strengthening flame of love, "loving in strength rather than in too much sweetness." CC 8:82

. . . Come, come my dear. Act like a woman with a head and a heart . . . CC 1:46

You know the sufferings of the heart purify our love for God and so we learn how to feel all the sufferings

that he endured in the unfaithfulness of his followers during his passion and death . . .

CC 1:55

The remembrance of my children never leaves me. I would not be without this precious jewel of the cross. The soul cannot work for God supernaturally till our Lord has shut by sorrow the door to all merely natural enjoyment.

D 63:42

Your letter tells me throughout how little you understand my heart and feelings either regarding the sacrifice of the world or the giving up of natural happiness with my darling children, ever dearer to me than my own life.

CC 1:71

My poor dear mistaken brother, dear to me as ever, why will you not let every one follow their vocation in peace? . . . Time and eternity. Eternity will prove if I have abandoned my duty to God and my dear children. . . . The more we love God the more we love our natural duties; and the more deeply we penetrate into the divine mysteries the more capable we become of fulfilling them perfectly — I mean fulfilling our natural duties.

CC 1:68

However we may crush our feelings, they are sure to live very brightly for hearts that are not shut up.

CC 8:9

Why are we not all saints? Only because our hearts are not fixed in God.

D 5:122

To aim at loving and serving God alone, and all creatures in him. When creatures trouble or neglect me, to turn to God to whom alone I ought to give my heart. "God alone." "For thy sake my God." CC 22:18

God's sweet and holy will is the only real enjoyment, which is the same in sickness or health when we resign ourselves. CC 4:16

In this flesh I shall see my God. D 75:630

Attain that kingdom of peace within where the soul's whisperings are answered by the King himself, giving abundantly that jubilee of heart which had not been bargained for in this life of accepted suffering.

CC 30:3

POVERTY

O my good Jesus, I do give myself all to thee, to suffer and die on the cross, poor as thou wert poor, abandoned as thou wert abandoned by all but thee, O Mary.

CC 21:15

Abandon the possession of any virtue to God and content myself with the practice. CC 21:18

God preserve us from not being always glad to feel the effects of poverty; if it were otherwise we should indeed be wandering from Bethlehem. D 73:249

Never let us forget that we are sisters of the Holy Child Jesus: Bethlehem — opposition, persecution, flight into Egypt. D 71:28

I do not in the least fear the responsibility of the loan. Our Lord, time, and unwearying diligence must bring out good fruit and overcome all difficulties. CC 11:31

The raising of an annual interest is a spur to industry, and strengthens a sense of responsibility which all should have, whether they hold the purse strings or not. D 73:249

Do not worry over temporals. You will see that Our Lord will do everything if we do our best. There would not be one of our convents on the face of the earth if we had not trusted to Our Lady of Sorrows next to God's providence. . . . Be full of confidence in God and diffident in ourselves. CC 6:113

You do not think of God's providence; where should we be now if we had not trusted to it? God knows what we require. D 76:139

I offer myself to thee to suffer in my heart with thee and for thee, not to do my will but thine. . . . I offer myself to suffer the loss of any esteem whatever and to be despised without any exceptions. I offer myself to suffer in my body by all my senses — by cold, by hunger, by

thirst and in any manner whatever (and without reserves) that may the most contribute to thy glory and the good of souls. CC 21:28-29

Our Lord himself provides that we must “ feel the effects of poverty.” CC 14:60

I am glad that you speak of the poor living and the hard work. If we compare the simple living of our religious with the abundance and luxury of persons in the world it is certainly poor; but if, on the contrary, we compare it to that of the mendicant orders or to that of the hermits of the desert it might be called luxurious. Without either comparison, it is simply the ordinary good fare for health and strength and good for all the essentials of life and health. CC 2:18

It would be much better to take a secular mistress than to allow the sisters to overwork themselves. CC 8:63

For the love of God do not let us be more nice or faddy than seculars! . . . But all that is necessary for health and strength we are bound to secure. CC 7:57

Let them earnestly desire to be tried by indigence and want of all things necessary to the body, and let them accustom themselves willingly to inconveniences: let them bear patiently with thanks to God all the injuries, scorn and opprobrium which may happen to be cast upon them

on the journey; and let them rejoice that an occasion is given them of imitating in some sort Christ our Lord and clothing themselves with his vestments and ensigns.

CC 55:11-12

I wish to imitate thee, in thy patience in suffering outrages and injuries, and in thy courage to support all kind of adversities. I submit myself moreover to pass all my life in poverty of spirit and of heart, and even in real and effective indigence.

CC 21:75

I feel quite sure, my Lord, that you would be the last to refuse a true vocation on the score of money; and if I refuse, it will not be on my own responsibility but in obedience to your wishes.

CC 11:34

I recommend you to use the experience of others even at great inconvenience rather than to run the risk of wasting money.

CC 7:92

An educational order ought to meet its own expenses on the ordinary principle of justice. We have hitherto done so, solely by our own labours.

CC 13:117

Generosity, generosity, generosity must be the beginning and ending of our life.

CC 54:13

OBEDIENCE

I unite myself to the Father. . . . I belong all to God. There is nothing in the world that I would not leave to do his holy will and to satisfy him. CC 21:34:35

Make now a lively, powerful and loving union of your will with the will of God: and then amidst the actions of the day, spiritual and corporal, make frequent reunions. That is to say, renew and confirm the union you made in the morning, casting a simple, interior regard upon the divine goodness, and say: Yes Lord, I will, or say only: Yes, Lord, yes my Father yes, always. CC 23:8

My God, help me to know thy will and give me the grace and the strength to accomplish it. . . . I am so afraid of having any reserve with God and how could I ever refuse to the love of love? CC 21:34:35

True liberty is that of the children of God. It consists in commanding the inclinations of the heart, in raising itself above all human fear and in walking with agility in accordance with the precepts of God. CC 22:1

The subjection of the highest part of the soul is sublime obedience — and the contrary is generally the most subtle pride. CC 8:71

Practise poverty of will, of mind and of self in obedience. D 64:61

If we are obedient we are at least on the road towards gaining humility and if we gain humility we shall prefer the will of God and the love of God to anything in this world.

CC 7:33

It is a great thing to know God's will and to be ready to do it generously.

CC 8:69

Doing the will of God is the only happiness and the only thing worth living for.

D 75:629

I only wish or care to follow God's will and ever to keep ourselves ready for the manifestations of it in the ordinary course of events.

CC 17:4

We glorify God in doing his will as he manifests it to us through our confessor and our superiors and according to the events of life which he orders or permits.

CC 21:18

It is impossible for a body to be preserved whole if its members are disunited. It is unimpaired union which imparts beauty, strength and vigour to the body.

CC 54:37

We must learn to discern the spirits in order to conquer the evil ones and to be docile to the good ones.

CC 54:11

It would not be an extraordinary thing that one should incline to what God wishes, or, on the contrary, that Our Lord should permit a repugnance to his will that more merit may be gained and that the heart may be the more purified. . . . Speak out with all truth, and receive with humility the manifestation of the will of God . . . without thinking about that which does not depend upon your judgment. — Never forget how easily the demon can transform himself into an angel of light to seduce and to deceive.

CC 55:61-62

As to be a saint is to will what God willeth, so to be wise is to judge of things as God judgeth of them.

CC 30:16

Do not wish for more than God wishes from you, but simply and only that his holy will and designs be accomplished.

CC 54:71

Let us take God's view. What does God think of this? How shall I view this in eternity?

CC 22:18

Imitate Jesus Christ who was obedient unto death even the death of the Cross. . . . Mortification is absolutely necessary to acquire a perfect conformity to the will of God, since it is our own will and the disorder of our appetite which are the obstacles to this conformity.

D 64:92-93

PRAYER

Prayer is the great source from whence the graces of God flow into the soul. Apart from prayer there are no graces; without graces, no virtues nor any means of acquiring them.

CC 31:56

They only who listen hear the voice of God. . . . is mine a listening soul?

CC 54:36

Attention is one of the first virtues. Without it our prayers are nought, our acts are nought, our life nought.

CC 29:28

Attention . . . may be carried into every thought, word and deed. Be so attentive that you may be at all times ready, as the wise virgins, to hear his voice, and faithful in corresponding to it.

CC 8:100

Take care not to lose the interior spirit by the pressure of activity.

CC 7:1

Our Lord accepts our thoughts as prayers when we desire earnestly anything good and for his greater glory. And he accepts our tears too when they are good tears.

CC 58:12

I will ask of my God without ceasing and he will give me to drink — O Jesus, give me the sorrow in meditat-

ing on thy blessed wounds, or some portion at least, that thy blessed Mother had — Stabat mater dolorosa.

CC 21:7

I only wish (just now) that I could really love to suffer and not only imagine it while in prayer.

CC 15:44

Sit in silence before Our Lord and be more ready to listen than to talk.

D 63:66

Put yourself in the presence of God. When your mind wanders away from the subject, love and make acts of love to God. Do not care about a multiplicity of thoughts, but make good resolution for the practical fruit.

CC 8:4

The two following points will teach you what you must do in order to pray well.

1. You must diligently apply yourself to mental prayer and meditation.
 - (a) Never begin your meditation without being well prepared for it and having renewed your resolution to do all in your power to make it well.
 - (b) During your meditation you must make every effort to spend the time in a manner most pleasing to God.
 - (c) Never omit your meditation or shorten it by a moment's space, whether God sends you light and consolation, or leaves you in dryness and desolation.

(d) If you find the exercise of meditation heavy and wearisome, then in order to gain a more complete victory over nature, you must rather prolong it than shorten it.

2. Apply yourself with all possible diligence to vocal prayer. For this, place yourself in the presence of God and form a generous resolution to leave nothing undone on your part to make your prayer well, for which humbly solicit his grace. Engage in this exercise with great deliberation and fervour and with a generous determination to resist and to combat the distractions and temptations by which you may be assailed. Should the temptations, however, prove to be beyond your strength, you must for a time interrupt your prayer to place yourself again in the presence of God and then renew your exercise with fresh vigour.

CC 31:56

There is no love without sacrifice, is there? We must imitate what we love very dearly and be consumed in loving, as Our Lord himself shows us in giving us his sacred person in Holy Communion.

CC 2:58

In all your troubles and anxieties he is your friend and advisor and will help you to bear the cross whenever it may come.

CC 7:37

Ask for great things — faith, zeal, generosity, humility, charity. But humility is the ground which is to be cul-

tivated to bring forth the flowers of all the other virtues
in your "enclosed garden."

CC 8:45

What are my difficulties?

1st . . . a want of submission and humility

2nd . . . a want of strength . . . in conquering . . . faults
and tempers

3rd . . . thinking too much of self, weighing every little
slighting word and act of others, yielding to wounded
feeling and anger, compassionating myself, giving
way to sadness and tears. The remedy for this is
meditation on the sufferings of Our Lord and a
generous desire to accept suffering for his sake —
rejecting all thoughts of self love and self compas-
sion. The heavier the cross the more Our Lord loves
you. The more constant the touches of his hand the
more he thinks of you, cares for you. Walk on
steadfastly in your sorrows to meet Jesus at Jerusalem.

CC 22:16-17

When forgotten, passed over and neglected, to say as
fervently as I can, 'Deo gratias'. When corrected or
disapproved, even for what I had intended well, to make
an offering of this to Our Lord in atonement for past
sins, saying, "Give me thy humility." When wounded
or snubbed, to recall to mind for what I entered religion.
What did I promise Our Lord in the retreat of Aug.
1875? To go in for humiliations.

CC 22:21-22

Crosses and upsets prove to us how little Christ-like we
are, and how quickly the thermometer of supposed hero-
ism falls to zero when put to the test.

CC 17:15

LIFELONG FORMATION

God alone with our own cooperation can make us what we ought to be. God alone; while we bow our heads and acknowledge that we are unprofitable servants. Humility and charity: the latter cannot act without the former and patience is the test of humility. D 68:24

The saints tell us many things which we take hold of and apply to ourselves only when the Holy Spirit gives us light to see and the humility to acknowledge when we do really see and the fidelity to practise what he shows us. Now I wish for you all the seven gifts of the Holy Ghost and that his Holy Spirit may whisper into your ear all that he wishes you to do in attaining perfection yourself and in helping those around you to attain the same. D 44:247

The knowledge of perfection and the practice of it are immensely far apart. D 64:63

Keep your soul in peace and accept with thanksgiving and real gratitude the little thorns that wound, and the lance that pierces the heart, and when you have heartily accepted them in union with the sufferings of your Divine Spouse, he will himself enlighten you and teach you how to value suffering and how to profit by it. It is in suffering and especially suffering of the heart that charity takes root, but it requires always the soil of humility to nourish it. Try to make a good heart, full of this most

fruitful sod, by rejecting every thought of injustice to yourself.

D 76:20

We shall never know the value of sufferings till we reach heaven. Let us now love and suffer. Let us labour and die to our self-love.

CC 30:16

When we acknowledge to God our selfishness, our crookedness and all our miseries, in humility, and ask him to change our selfishness into charity, our crookedness into straightforwardness, our miseries into his perfections, this is what he delights in and it is the first step to this purity of heart and intention. The only way to obtain purity of heart is to reject what is impure and the same in our intentions, reject what is double, I mean what is not from a pure motive, what is from human respect or any human motive. God teaches us to know ourselves and when we doubt our motives and wish to purify ourselves then it is a sign that we begin to know ourselves, our sinful nature, and then alone we learn to act for God alone and to do all for his greater glory.

CC 1:101-102

Say "Deo gratias" once for what is pleasant, twice for what is painful.

D 76:62

"Sursum corda." If you can only remember to offer all the turmoil within at the time as an act of burning love, and tell our Lord that you will turn it into love, and prove it by fervent acts of love to him, again and

again, and still again repeated, till you find yourself really burning with the love of God, instead of the burning of wounded sentiments. If you really do try this at the time, I promise you that he will quite fill your heart with love and give you with this love the fortitude and strength to keep yourself in his holy peace. D 76:20

Love those who are under the same Rule as yourself; love them for the sake of Jesus Christ, and let your love be manifest by the regard you show for them. Serve them in whatever lies in your power. CC 54:51

If you are superior to your sister in some quality or ability or talent, as far as you may, communicate it and share it with them, that they may also enjoy what is dear to you, and have, as you, another means to glorify the Lord. CC 54:68

Reason and virtue, and the example of the sisters who have passed their lives under the same Rule as our own are our guides in the ways and customs of our life. CC 2:18

Be yourself but make that self just what Our Lord wants it to be. D 73:174

For you who are young remember that the elders are the principal members of the Society, who have experience and who cooperate in its welfare. Pity, love and honour

them with all your heart, showing them every respect and service, remembering how much they have served the Society . . . And for you, oh aged! love the young, for they are the hope of the Society. Look upon them as the tender plants that are growing and increasing to vigorous trees that will bear fruit to the glory of God.

CC 54:70

It is for the glory of God that we should be saints. God wills what is for his glory. Therefore God wills us to be saints. God wills me to be a saint. I will to be a saint. Therefore I shall be a saint.

CC 21:23

INITIAL FORMATION

The invitation comes from God, and to him you must give your answer. Don't talk about what you are going to do for God, but reflect on what God is doing for you.

D 73:209

All we are to expect of postulants is a good will; a measured and spiritual conduct is not to be looked for.

CC 55:56

May our Lady of the Angels guard and protect you and keep you . . . Never forget that every act of humble self-denial will make you more pleasing to her and to her Divine Son. Be simple and humble and you will be sure of being blest. Do not be ashamed to ask what you do not know. And when you are in doubt as to

what you ought to do ask with humility and you will be told. CC 8:113

What one is called to do she is called to do with all her might. CC 21:6

It is not presumption to have hope and joy and confidence in God's grace. CC 21:7

Our Lord regards what you desire sincerely to become rather than what you are. Try to help others and each effort will be blessed on yourself. CC 6:51

We are what God sees us and knows us to be, nothing more. CC 22:11

Heaven must be won according to God's way upon us in particular and on each one in particular. CC 6:1

Be generous and of great heart in religion that you may never degenerate from the noble sentiments of the children of God. We shall never know the value of sufferings till we reach heaven. Let us now love and suffer. Let us labour and die to our self-love. D 75:646

Continue to praise, love and thank God, to offer yourself to him and to submit entirely to his holy will. CC 31:59

Watchfulness, prayer and the constant seeking of divine help, with self-mistrust, must be the foundation of faithful confidence and hope. She must remember that she is to form the novices to be open and sincere, lively and joyful, ready, foreseeing and active. The Society has much more need of labouring sisters, than of devout statues. She must take care to form and mould the novices as far as possible to strength of mind and reason, so that their hearts may be governed and that all their actions may be guided by reason and virtue. CC 54:84-85

She is not to expect that the novices will form their spirit on her own, but she is rather to bend hers to theirs making herself all in all to them to assist them to advance in their way. CC 54:85

She must take care not to foment a certain facility that novices have in losing themselves in superfine reflections over themselves, which experience proves to be most hurtful. She must accustom them to be simple (right-minded, righteous) and virtuously free and she will have them of strongly delicate conscience, and constantly vigilant, generous, humble and faithful. Vigilant in seeing their failings. Humble in acknowledging them to themselves. Faithful in generously conquering themselves. CC 54:57

If the spirit of self-sacrifice is at the root of a vocation I have every hope. D 76:44

Explain the Rules and Constitutions, making use of the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius as the bulwark to the

true spirit of these Constitutions and to the proper understanding of the vows which are to bind us to Our Lord for the remainder of our lives.

D 66:106

If you have been careful and zealous in answering the call of our Lord Jesus Christ, remember that it is not sufficient to have begun well, you must also persevere with courage and finish with resolution what you have so happily begun.

CC 54:46-47

PROFESSION AND APOSTOLIC LIFE IN COMMUNITY

Make eternally the voluntary sacrifice of yourself to the Lord which you offered on entering into the Society, and advancing in age, attend the more to fulfilling your vocation and advancing in perfection because this is most acceptable to God. Having determined to despise the world and to acquire heaven, to die to yourself in order to live in God, do not fail to be faithful to your word and go on so as to please interiorly your spouse who has preceded you in humiliation and suffering and who waits for you in his glory.

CC 54:76

I owe to my sisters esteem, affection and the most tender and cordial good will. I ought to do my best to support union. I owe to my neighbour love, forbearance and forgiveness.

CC 29:22

Let us love one another and pray
Let us love one another and be faithful

Let us love one another and be humble
Let us love one another and be filled with the charity
of God
Let us love one another with God, in God and for God.
Be ye perfect. And we shall thus be one with him for
all eternity.

D 65:94

Those with whom you live, namely, the community of
which you are a member, have an undoubted claim to
your good opinion, so that you should always put a
favorable construction on their words and actions.

CC 54:51

There would be no end to taking offence in a community
when anyone hunts for wounds. It is a mystery to me
how you can allow yourself to imagine and grieve over
the words and doings of others and take them as un-
kindnesses, even if they were meant as such. Why not
try to gain merit for yourself and leave others to God?
He does not always will that which is the most perfect
in itself but the most perfect possible under the circum-
stances.

CC 7:16-17

If our poor hearts are so easily touched by those who
are contrite what must it be with the heart of that loving
God who died for us?

CC 6:99

Oh how ungrateful is it to higgie with our Lord over
the daily crosses of this short pilgrimage! Can we ever
be grateful enough for being admitted to vows?

CC 8:11

First to bear adversities with endurance — then with willingness — then with joy. CC 54:19

Dwell with God and speak often to him in your heart, and from time to time help each other in the divine presence. CC 54:66

Our good God has given us this present time in which to sanctify ourselves. Perhaps this may be the last year of our life, let us employ it in fulfilling the designs of God. Our merciful God gives us this year in order that we may work for and win heaven. There is not a single moment in which we may not by our fidelity lay up for ourselves merit and win fresh merit. Oh let us cherish and turn to good account the present time — the present year. CC 54:29-30

We all have a large share of suffering and if we had not we should never become Christ-like as we ought. CC 7:26

In this life we learn to value suffering because we find its reward in the possession of that peace which passeth all understanding, and this brings us a sensible reward. CC 8:126

Practise purity of intention and you will so turn to God that the ill will or offence of creatures will only affect you in proportion as God is affected. CC 6:10

Do you realize the privilege of giving to God? It is yours at every moment.

D 77:18

I thought to live to complete my work, but it will be done by others.

D 76:29

The labours are short — they pass quickly — at the latest they must end with life and life is not long. The recompence is eternal as God himself, for as long as God endures we shall reap the fruits of our labours. We must be practically convinced that God alone is to be served. Let us labour for him alone with great joy, and look to him alone and to his recompence for our reward.

C 54:46

Eternity will soon be decided for us and then shall we not be glad to have had some little share in the passion of our dear Lord? When shared with him is it not sweeter than honey?

CC 6:52

We must go to God by our intentions. We are made for God and it is only to attain to him as our last end that we are in the world at all. We learn to love and serve him in time that we may be fit to possess him in eternity. We should go to God by our desires. We shall be supremely happy when we possess our God.

CC 54:33-34

Our dear Lord gives that jubilee of soul and that certainty of immortality in the blissful hope of eternity

which our dear Jesus has merited for us in the redemption, so that it is a joy to think of death. CC 1:74

Let us all pray fervently for each other not forgetting that we have a community in heaven waiting for us to join them there. CC 8:130

UNION FOR MISSION: GOVERNMENT

MINISTRY OF GOVERNMENT

The Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus, though they be far apart in various places and of different dispositions must form one body and interest themselves in the particular and common good.

CC 54:73

Love all and each in one heart, in the very heart of the Holy Child Jesus, to whom you belong, one body and one spirit.

CC 54:69

We are engaged in the service of the same Lord, united in the same divine Spouse, working for the same end — formed and bound by the same Rule.

CC 55:74

Be one in the heart of our Divine Spouse and he will help us and do all things for us. Let us try to be great in humility and little in ourselves.

CC 8:82-83

I wish to see you most illustrious in all the grace of virtue, but at least do not be wanting in an exemplary piety and probity and a sincere affection for the community (I mean the Order), together with humility.

CC 8:81

As we are all gathered together in the Society in the Name of God, so ought there to be but one will, one soul and one heart in God.

CC 54:67-68

Ah, my dear sisters, how much depends on your fidelity in little things — how much. Who knows what misfortunes might fall upon us by the infidelity of one only, in some apparently little act? Who knows? Many a time has a whole community suffered through the infidelity of one only. Be faithful and more and more faithful — and thus more and more united to our divine Spouse.

CC 8:88

Above all things in the world have the greatest love and esteem of your vocation and of your order. Esteem your own order as the one most proper for you, but still speak with moderation.

CC 54:49

I can truly say that if there were not an almost unlimited elasticity and simplicity of spirit amongst us, I should look upon the faithfully loving confidence proved in our dear community as an undeniable miracle of God and his Immaculate Mother.

CC 16:51

I hope you try to make the sisters happy and comfortable in their offices and daily duties. I want to hear that the sisters love you with the charity of God. “Love and you will be loved” is an old saying. The office of superior is anything but an enviable one!

CC 6:69

Do not shun speaking to your superior but, on the contrary, be frank, sincere and open with her, letting her know your inclinations and repugnances, whether to a higher or lower office, opening your heart as you would to God himself.

CC 55:61

In the particular good they will enjoy the union of charity. Each must unite heartily with those companions with whom they have to live, now in one place and now in another, according to the order of obedience. She must find always in them sisters, and they must find in her a sister.

CC 54:73

In order to preserve the law of charity we must learn to "bear with one another." In order to keep the perfect law of charity we must learn to go out of ourselves, to stifle and root out self-love from our heart, to subdue with generosity our natural repugnances, or rather, for the love of charity to act directly opposite to them. Thus we shall render the burden of others lighter by taking the heavier part of it ourselves, by which we shall fulfill the sweet law of religious charity.

CC 54:38-39

Be watchful in leading each and all according to the divine grace bestowed upon them and keep yourself in spirit at the feet of all.

CC 23:24

It becomes the duty of every superior to prepare the subjects under her charge for a fervent renewal of spirit and not to rest too well satisfied with a diligent school-mistress.

CC 8:108

I feel for the troubles you have had. The only way I can accept them is that our good God has provided them for you and for me. They are mine because I must

share in all that falls to others and especially to those whose offices are more or less dependent upon me.

CC 8:75

No quality is more needed in a superior than a mild and gentle spirit, without which she can neither preserve peace of heart nor bring forth good fruit in the government of her subjects.

CC 55:46

Good judgement doubtless directs her in what is necessary for peace and union in her community, which she is bound to preserve.

CC 8:67

Obtain that knowledge (of Constitutions) which every superior ought to know in order to be safe in her judgments. Knowledge is of more use to you than useless consolation.

CC 7:100

How much we must all pray for each other that we may prove our gratitude to God for all he has done for us and for our dear little Society of the Holy Child.

CC 8:118

STRUCTURES OF GOVERNMENT

I am quite sure that our sisters will see that the essential point with us all is to be firmly united under one head.

CC 14:96

Let obedience govern your motions. An office or charge is put upon your shoulders; perform it with readiness and exactness. The honour of God and your own spiritual advantage is concerned in your exact discharge of this employ and no other, this very charge is the means of your sanctification which Providence has allotted. Be faithful in it, however unsuitable or mean it may appear, or however contrary to your inclinations, perform it with alacrity, fervour and humility. Such is the order of God, such his divine Will, and nothing honours and pleases his divine Majesty so much as a punctual performance of and submission to his blessed will.

CC 54:50

God does his own work well and we must be very careful not to spoil it by our small share in it.

CC 16:31

You meet in chapter; your opinion is required: crave light of the Holy Ghost, and act as one solicitous for the honour of God and the advantage of your community.

CC 54:50

Pray and have great confidence in God who will take care of his own work and guide and govern it by his Holy Spirit.

CC 7:6

Were I not convinced that the thought of founding the Society was not my own but God's, I would have given it up long ago. But I cannot give up what he has given me to do.

D 67:29-30

The Society of the Holy Child Jesus is not my work. I have only followed the inspirations of God in obedience to his not my will.

D 63:27

O omnipotent God! who without any merit of our own, but by thy infinite mercy and goodness alone, hast been pleased to call us to the Society of thy divine Son Jesus, we humbly beseech thee, by the merits of his most Precious Blood, by the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and of our patron saints, to grant that no cunning or power of the evil spirit may ever move us from our holy resolutions: that our senses may not allure us, that the love of our parents, the counsels of our relations and friends may not hinder us, that difficulties may not discourage us, nor any fatigue cast us down. Finally, grant that no diabolical suggestion may ever prevent us. Give us a good will and grace to make it effectually conformable to thy divine Will and good pleasure. Grant us, especially, O most liberal God, all the gifts necessary to accomplish thy designs and inspire us with a heartfelt confidence towards our superiors, so that, to the end of our lives we may with constancy work out our own salvation and assist others to the greater glory of God. Amen.

CC 31:27-28

