

Mademoiselle

According to what you write to me, I understand that our good God is still leaving you in a type of uncertainty and abandoned so to speak to cold human reason. You see the happiness of the regular life; you know the miseries of the world. There are what your reason already guided by faith uncovers and shows to you, the former as good and advantageous, and the world is represented to you in its true light and not as the passions would want to make you believe it to be. But this speculative knowledge is doing nothing for your happiness; one thing is lacking, it is the grace of Jesus Christ which must be added to the teachings of reason. It is not enough to know, one must love and desire. Humble yourself, my dear young Lady, before the Savior Jesus and ask him to make up for your powerlessness by sending you a ray of that light from on high which, besides clarity, produces warmth. Grace works on the mind by enlightening it, and on the heart by warming it. Then you will not be content with seeing, you will go further and say: I must love what is perfect or what leads to it. I must fear what is bad and avoid it. So from reasoning to reasoning you will come to the conclusion: one must do good and avoid evil. From speculative as it was, your knowledge will become practical. That is what is necessary. Jesus indeed says, it is not the one who says Lord, Lord, that will be saved, but it will be the one who has done the will of the Lord; that one will be saved. That is to say that knowledge of religion will not save us, if our behavior is not in conformity with what it teaches us. Now, to do the will of God is the first duty of man. To seek to know that will is an obligation that follows from the other one. But how, you are going to say to me, how could I know the will of God? Through prayer, through meditation, through that interior voice that makes itself heard from time to time, through the advice of a director or a confessor. I am sorry that time does not allow me to come to Belleghem; it seems to me that a few talks would be enough to settle your choice. I do not say to commit you to embracing the religious state; I do not have the power to grant that favor: Jesus Christ chooses his Spouses. Men do not impose any on him.

I will pray for you and be of use to you wherever I can be. Believe, dear Mademoiselle, in the affection you are assured of in Jesus Christ by one who has the happiness of counting a large number of the Spouses of Jesus among the Children he directs as their spiritual Father and who for that reason has acquired experience in this matter. He will not abuse your confidence; you can give it entirely to him.

(Not Dated - 1832?)