

My very dear Daughter in Jesus Christ

On reading, yesterday, the passage about Mary Magdalen in the Holy Gospel, in which that ardent servant of Jesus Christ is searching in a kind of distress, and does not find him nor recognize him, although our good Savior is at her side, I thought of you, my poor Child. This feature of the story of Magdalen is the image of what happens to many souls that are sincerely devoted to the Lord and whose love their divine Spouse wishes to test, by hiding from their eyes by the withdrawal of the awareness of the consolation of grace. This state alarms and disturbs them and makes them afraid they have lost the state of grace, the love of God, Jesus the sole object of their true and only real affection.... They groan, they search, they forget that the comforter, who they think is far from them, is in their hearts through his grace, and around them through his protection.

Learn, my Child, that your confidence in Jesus must increase, when you do not feel his tangible presence. It is, in fact, because that true friend wants to arouse in you sentiments more in conformity with those his heart has for you, a livelier faith, a hope more detached from every mixture of your own self-sufficiency, a love pure and confident in his infinitely divine mercy.

So, as long as the absence of Jesus Christ distresses you, as long as you are afraid of displeasing him, be sure that his love is in your heart, that you are his friend and that you will feel this when the trial is over.

Meanwhile, remember what you read in the treatise on peace of soul, and continue reading that excellent work.

Receive my blessing and believe in my devotedness.

Your ever devoted Father in Jesus Christ

C. G. Van Crombrughe

(Not dated)