

L.S.J.M.J.

16-11

You gave me great pleasure, my dear Child, by giving me a few details about your present feelings, and what you are setting yourself as the objective of all your efforts: perfection, or what is the same thing, holiness, in the religious state. It is a great undertaking, but it is not beneath the power of grace. "If anyone would come after me", Jesus Christ said to his disciples, "let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me."

That, my dear Child, is the real foundation of holiness and the way to achieve it. Very blind would she be who would think she could attain to it by another way than the one the divine Savior pointed out to us by following it himself. Now, she who does not walk in the footprints of our divine Model by following his example; she who does not bear her cross, by fulfilling the duties of her state, she who does not generously oppose the disordered inclinations of nature, she who does not fight against the pride of her mind and the vicious inclinations of her heart; no, indeed! that person is not on way of Jesus, she will not attain to holiness. She is evidently on a false track.

Weigh up these truths, my daughter, and conform your conduct to them courageously; you will discover in them the explanations for all the doubts in your mind, and the remedy for all the weaknesses of your heart.

You know the sentiments of your Father in Our Lord Jesus Christ

C. G. Van Crombrugghe

(Not dated)