

XIII. LETTER TO MADAME DELAPLACE

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Mrs. Delaplace was the mother of Father François Delaplace who entered the Novitiate of Notre-Dame-du-Gard in 1848, and joined Libermann's Congregation. He was Director of the Colonial Seminary in Paris in 1852, the year of Libermann's death. In 1860 he founded the Orphanage of the Holy Family and the Congregation of the Sisters Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary. He died in Paris in 1911.

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*Libermann expresses his sympathy with her sorrows and exhorts her to suffer with Jesus.*

*Paris, November 8, 1851*

*Vol. 13, p. 349*

J. M. J.

Madame :

Your son asked me whether the permission I had given him to stay with his mother for a couple of weeks extended to the Sunday that comes at their end. I thought that you had already received an answer about that so I did not hurry to write to you personally, the more so because I have had a very busy week. But I have now discovered that your son's letter remained unanswered ! So I hasten, belatedly, to reply directly to you. I hope that your son will have interpreted his permission in a favorable way, extending his vacation to Monday. He knows very well how eager I am to give you all possible consolation, so he could not have believed that I wanted him to interpret the permission in a narrow sense.

I am glad to have this opportunity of telling you how greatly I desire to comfort and encourage you, to the full extent of my ability, in the midst of your afflictions. Dear

*SPIRITUAL LETTERS OF FRANCIS LIBERMANN*

Madame, you have a twofold title to our special interest in your well-being. First of all, your heart is constantly weighed down by suffering. It always resembles the Heart of Mary and is in union with Mary at the foot of the Cross. Secondly, you have given your beloved son to [the Congregation of] the most Holy Heart of Mary. He has become one of us and is as dear to us as he is to your own heart.

You may be certain, dear Madame, that God's goodness accepts your sacrifices and sorrows and that He looks upon you with love and mercy. A sacrifice made to Jesus never remains without its reward of supernatural graces and sanctification, and what please Him most are the sacrifices of the heart.

Our Lord never abandons a crucified soul, a soul that remains humbly submissive to Him. It is in such souls that He puts His delight and He reserves for them treasures of consolation and glory in heaven.

Jesus wants you to live His life in this world in order that you may also live His life in glory. His life "in Mary" [cf. O Jesus, living in Mary] was one of sorrow and privation. He deals with you as He did with His holy Mother. You ought then to unite your heart to the Heart of Mary. Be full of love and gratitude towards Jesus because of His predilection for you, which He shows by giving you so large a share in the holy life He led on earth.

Be humble, generous, calm and peaceful. You belong to Jesus. Live with Jesus and let Jesus live with you. In this you will find your consolation, your support, and the strength your soul needs.

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I will continue to pray for you as in the past, and I beg you to give us a small share in your devotions and good works which make you so pleasing to God.

I remain, dear Madame,

Your humble and devoted servant  
in Jesus and Mary,

FRANCIS LIBERMANN, Superior