

V. LETTERS TO MISS ROUILLARD

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Miss Rouillard, together with other pious ladies, contributed to the support of Father Libermann's missions. Around the time of his letters to her she had lost the power of hearing.

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*Union in charity. The blessings of deafness.*

*Letter One*

{1844}

*Vol. 6, p. 291*

Dear Miss Rouillard:

Since you want me to send you a little word of consolation, I shall do so, although I am still somewhat ill.

I am very grateful to you and to all the other good persons who are giving their help for the good of the Missions.

I am glad to learn that a sincere reconciliation has taken place between you and the other pious persons. The enemy of salvation is always seeking to arouse discord among those who are gathered in divine charity. God receives great glory when that wretched enemy is overcome. Our good Master loves union and charity; He has triumphed in your souls; may His Holy Name be blessed! I beg Him to preserve that holy charity in your hearts.

It is not an evil to be deprived of the power to hear the conversations of men. Listen peacefully to the Divine Spirit who speaks in the depths of your heart; His word will be so much more powerful in you because Divine Goodness deprives you of the power to hear the words of men. The words of men are often an obstacle to souls that desire to listen to the voice of God speaking inside them. Rejoice, therefore, and submit lovingly to all that God wants to inflict

*SPIRITUAL LETTERS OF FRANCIS LIBERMANN*

upon you; your loss may prove a spiritual gain for your own sanctification. Deafness enables one to avoid a great number of faults.

Your most humble servant,

FRANCIS F. LIBERMANN

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*The Value of Suffering in and for Christ.*

*Letter Two*

*September 17, 1844*

*Vol. 6, p. 346*

Dear Miss Rouillard:

I pray to our good Master that He himself may be your consolation. Suffer peacefully the pains which Divine Mercy sends you. It is a great happiness for a Christian soul to be able to suffer in this world. Whatever the nature of the pains which Jesus in His divine goodness sends you whether they be interior or exterior—they are always of priceless value for our souls. The good Lord deals with us with a goodness and sweetness that is admirable. He gives us sufferings in order that our souls may detach themselves from the earth, from the pleasures and satisfactions of nature, so that we may cling to Him alone.

It is quite true that a good Christian soul is not attached to forbidden pleasures; but one might crave too much those that are lawful and a soul might thus be less strongly attached to Our Lord, who wants to be the only lord of our little heart. Be fully subject to the Divine Will—suffer with humility and love all that He sends you; it is not you who are suffering, but Jesus, the Heart of Jesus, which is the love of all hearts. He is in you and suffers with you; abandon

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your soul to Him; His divine grace is there; it will render your sufferings very profitable for the sanctification of your soul. Remain prostrate at the feet of the Divine Master; surrender your body and soul to Him alone. Live only for His Divine Will; preserve peace in the midst of your pains. Jesus is in you; what more can you desire? And if you suffer, it is in Jesus crucified who is in you. Oh! How happy is the soul which possesses Jesus crucified within it! It possesses the treasure of all graces and the source of all love and holiness. You are a thousand times blessed because you are able to suffer with Jesus and the peace of Jesus.

Your humble servant,

FRANCIS LIBERMANN

priest of the Holy Heart of Mary