

11th OCTOBER 1818 – 11th OCTOBER 2018



“**Emilie d’Oultremont**” a woman of her time, who “chose the better part”, who allowed herself to be seduced by the One who is love, and who invites us to live in Love, starting from this Love that “repairs, recreates and beautifies”.



Dear Sisters and Lay Associates,

I consider it a special gift of God to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Our Mother Foundress, whilst preparing our 2019 General Chapter.

While the different provincial/regional chapters were in progress, we kept a candle lighted on her grave, as a sign of our search for God’s will, in communion with her. Her life tells us a lot; I invite you to remain with Emilie, allowing ourselves to be touched by her words which stem from her profound experience of Love during her life - so often in the midst of suffering - that induced her to “make this unknown Love known, and to make It loved”.

It is now our turn to continue such a mission. "*Deeds are the proof of love*" she said in one of her conferences, which I will now share with you.

Let us ask our dear Emilie "Blessed Mary of Jesus", to help us to live the Burning Zeal of Love "that soars again, runs, flies towards its Beloved, and that always and everywhere".

Aurora Torres Hernández  
Superior General

## **ON THE WORDS: I LOVE THEE, O MY GOD**

STRASBURGH - 25 MAI 1860

*There are some words of St. Augustine to which I call your attention particularly, my children: "I love You, O my God, but I do not know if I love you enough: give my love all the extent it should have, show me the depth and the breadth You wish it to have."*

*The whole secret perfection is love. "Love is stronger than death. » Who can explain this feeling which at times dominates all our being, or define this indescribable something which removes all difficulties, this bond between hearts that divine grace has drawn together and which unites them so powerfully, this bond of grace which is so much stronger than natural sentiment?... It is easier to feel love than to define it. It manifests itself by deeds rather than by words. St. Gregory says "Deeds are the proof of love", and again, "Love effects great things wherever it is found; in ceasing to act, it ceases to exist."*

*See the tenderness, the devotedness and the eagerness to give pleasure to the beloved in a soul that loves. A look, a sign, a movement is immediately understood, for love divines everything. Between God and the soul that loves Him, this intimate exchange of tenderness exists still more truly. We have all understood and experienced it. If a creature who is the object of so much care, so many anxieties, cannot help responding to them, with how much more reason will He who is the object of all our affections, He who is love itself, as well as goodness and mercy, respond to all that we do for Him ? Yes, my children, we have all realized what a glance, a caress, or a word from our God showing that He appreciates our love, is worth. What is there that could, I do not say stop us, but even make us hesitate or count the cost, if we really love? If we do not understand that, it is because we do not love.*

*It is quite true that very often God will leave us to wrestle with our own weak nature in the face of suffering. He will allow hell to be let loose against us; but if we love, nothing can stop us, for I repeat: "Love is stronger than death and its zeal is more consuming than all the fires of hell". We shall suffer but we shall not yield. It is true that love suffers, weeps, cries out, laments and even weakens, but only to soar again and fly towards its Beloved, and that always and everywhere.*

*Our Lord submitted to and felt these different trials of love. He calls Himself, by the mouth of the Prophet, "a worm and no man". Under the pressure of the grief, He fell prostrate to the ground. We, too, under the pressure of suffering, under the attacks of the devil, under the agony of our poor nature, shall be, as it were, crushed, but we shall not rebel. Our Lord passed through an agony of sorrow, while His Father's gaze followed Him in the midst of His distress and upheld Him invisibly.*

*In His turn, Jesus will look lovingly on us for He is the Father of Mercies. He loves us, who are His creatures, with an everlasting love; He has drawn us to Him; He has chosen us from among thousands to belong to Him alone and, for that end, He has removed all obstacles, smoothed all difficulties, suffered everything for us, delivering Himself to death, "even to the death of the Cross". And we, shall we refuse Him*

*anything? If so, we do not love Him. And even though He visit us with suffering, we shall taste joy also; and if bitterness be sometimes mingled with that joy, it will be because He wishes us to be like unto Himself.*

*Jesus gives consolations to many souls, for He knows that otherwise they would refuse Him what He asks or abandon Him altogether, but those who serve Him with generous disinterestedness will find that He withdraws sensible consolation from them though they are still upheld in the midst of their struggles and temptations, against nature and hell itself.*

*He will, moreover, be with them in the labors and disappointments inseparable from the work of trying to win souls for Him, or in those other moments of lassitude and abandonment that come to us, making us fear that all is lost; even at such times we will be conscious of an inexpressible peace upholding us.*

*These, my children, are some of the trials of love. Let us love God. Let love be our motivating power, our only guide, our only life. It will make all things easy, it will defy discouragement and make the impossible possible, for love can do all things. That is the incentive that nothing can lessen, nothing can extinguish, and which difficulties, obstacles and sufferings only increase. Love rules everything; it possesses the entire being of the one whom it inflames, and the measure of loving God is to love without measure.*

CONFERENCES OF THE REVEREND MOTHER MARY OF JESUS, FOUNDRRESS AND  
FIRST SUPERIOR GENERAL OF THE SOCIETY OF MARY REPARATRIX  
1860 – 1874

*"The notes of these conferences were made while Our Venerable Mother Foundress was speaking.*

*Therefore, we can easily understand the redoubled concern and workload performed by our first Sisters to create this Collection of Instructions, a rich treasure bequeathed to us as a family inheritance and a monument of filial piety."*