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Marianna Alvarez (1)

Magliano

January 15, 1735

Jesus and Mary be praised.

My Daughter in Jesus Christ,

I received your letters, the one in Talamone and the other in Magliano. Your anxious desire, so often repeated, to go on missions is born of your little resignation and detachment. If you were detached from everything, you would have only one desire, that is, pleasing God alone in every place and time, without indulging in dislike and pain at anything except the displeasure of God.

So get rid of these thoughts and useless desires and rejoice to be where you are. When you are the more afflicted, then rejoice all the more, for then you stand close to the cross of the Crucified Savior. I desire that you exercise vigilance over your heart. Believe me, my daughter, that I never find my happiness so well as in passing my miserable life a moment at a time, without thinking of another moment beyond where I find myself at present. When tempests of various kinds come over me, I say to myself: "I wish to love God as much as I can in this moment, as if it were the last moment of my life. I wish to suffer with happiness now, without thinking of the future. My soul, fulfill the Will of God with perfection in this moment, as if it were your last. So, my soul, do this from now on. Live Jesus. Amen."

See to it that you never more, never more foster your desires to leave and to come here. I do not want your compassion. Think about compassionating Jesus Christ, crucified for my sins, and let this be the last time you show sympathy for me.

Greet the senior commander and all his house. My vocation prevents me from doing baptisms for babies, and I would not do that for any reason. That is not for me. I welcome their good affection, and I thank them in the Lord. I end in a hurry. In Jesus Christ I greet your good daughters and Suplizia. Let go of your foolish scruples. God bless you. I am writing in haste.

I recommend the enclosed note to your charity.

Paul, Your Servant in God