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Thomas Fossi (1)83

Longone

August 24, 1735

May Jesus be always in your heart. Amen.

Dearest,

I have just received your welcome letter. Since duties are not wanting to me, I do not have time to reply at length. I will only say that in the present circumstance you are not to trust yourself. When these absorptions occur, humble yourself completely. Have contempt for yourself. If the absorption continues, get up from prayer, go outside either to work or take a walk. Don't say these are ecstasies; you are not worthy of such things. Say to yourself: "A sinner like me deserves only to be deceived by the devil. Lord, protect me from such deceptions. My God, you know I am worse than a devil. It is a marvel, Lord, that you allow such a one in your presence! Get out, you beast, and humble yourself. Who are you, sordid creature? You in ecstacy? Those would be diabolical ecstasies! O abyss of misery! how dare you think of ecstasies?" Rather, believe you are guilty of treason against God and humble yourself in the depths of hell.

In such happenings make such acts of humility. Be fearful that the devil is making himself into an angel of light and bringing about such tenderness and false absorptions that they seem to be ecstasies. Make nothing of them; spurn them. Obey, and at the right time let me know how things turn out. Right now I have nothing more to say. God bless you.

Your unworthy servant,

Paul Danei

83.

This letter begins a long collection of one hundred seventy-nine letters (1735 to 1773). Thomas Fossi was born in 1711 on the island of Elba. He met Paul in 1735 when Paul was giving a mission there. Fossi was a successful business man, married with a family. After his wife's death he was ordained and later joined the Passionists in 1768 and lived with Paul at Saints John and Paul in Rome. After Paul's death in 1775, Thomas returned to Mount Argentario, where he died in 1785.