97

Agnes Grazi (22)

Saint Anthony

March 8, 1736

Jesus and Mary be praised. Amen.

My Daughter in Jesus Christ,
On my arrival from Pisa to this poor Retreat, I received your letter, which was very satisfying to me because I see, thanks to the Lord, you are resigned to holy obedience. I know it is said that whoever is always obedient will sing of victory.
I am pleased that you converse with the servants of God, but with prudence and simplicity. Do not speak of your interior without a clear impulse from God. Strengthen everyone, say what God inspires you to say, and then withdraw from creatures in order to treat alone with the Highest Good. Oh, my daughter, God wants great things! He calls you to the highest perfection, and to reach that there is need of your cooperation That is done by annihilating yourself before God and your neighbor in genuine and very simple humility, with a complete detachment from all created things and from your own life, with a total transformation in the Divine Good Pleasure and a total abandonment in the abyss of infinite goodness to the extent that you can be said to be absolutely one with it.
When you feel moved to pray for your neighbor, certainly do that, but with great humility, trusting in God and distrusting yourself. Concerning everything else, follow our old rules.
I went to Pisa and God delivered me from great perils to my life on land and on sea.94 May his most Holy Name be blessed!
Continue to pray God for the success of the Retreat and for me, who am most in need. After Easter I am going to Pisa to conduct holy missions, and then I go into the diocese of Grosseto. I will be away about three months. You will not come to Orbetello just now, and, I believe, you will remain where you are for the summer, but I do not know for certain. I write nothing more, for God knows my condition. God bless you and inflame you with his holy love. Amen. Give the enclosed letter to Sister Lilia. I would willingly send you the discipline, but I do not know how to do that.
Your true servant in Christ,
Paul of the Holy †

94.
General D. Las Minas was so pleased with Paul's mission at Portercole that he recommended him to the Duke of Montemar for his troops at Pisa. Paul went there by boat and was caught in a terrible storm. He will return to Pisa after Easter for another mission and for one at Grosseto.