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Girolama Ercolani (4)

San Angelo

September 26, 1747

J.M.J.

My Esteemed Girolama,
I am answering your esteemed letter and am doing it on a small sheet of paper in order not to have to fold. Please do not attribute this to a lack of respect.
As regard to changing your confessor, I do not know what to say to you, except that you are free to make your confession where you please. If God is inspiring you to change for yourself and your children, and on reflection you think that profitable, go ahead and do it. Be careful to approach a wise spiritual doctor who will give you and your daughters salutary advice in walking in the way of perfection in accord with your state in life.
Let him know that you desire the good upbringing of your daughters and that you are well informed on that. Your young ladies are like precious jewels and need to be seen rarely, as is done with the relics of saints. Prayer, reading of holy books, frequenting the sacraments, along with devout preparation, especially fleeing from idleness, and keeping them always busy at work. Believe me, Girolama, that here is a regimen to make you holy, and your daughters as well.
I ask you to continue the rule to throw off your scruples. I leave you and your good daughters in the gentle Heart of Jesus, whence I ask for you every fullness of blessings, and I am,
Your unworthy, obligated servant
Paul of the Cross