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Bishop Joachim M. Oldo (24)

San Angelo

May 27, 1749

J.C.P.

Your Excellency,

Your esteemed letter gave me more than ordinary reason to bless and magnify the divine mercies, especially because of the holy abandonment that the Divine Majesty grants you in your present suffering, keeping your pious spirit like a child in the bosom of divine love and feeding in a high secret way on the milk of holy love. This is the treasure of treasures. You should teach me that, and I wish I would once learn to stay in the secret interior in a sacred silence of faith and love, accepting from God without fear whatever the pain, sorrow, etc., always feeding in Christ and through Christ on the holy Divine Will.

I have strong hopes in the blessed God that you will draw great good from the persecutions aroused against the pious vicar general. This blow, I confess to my great weakness, pained me greatly. Last night, after I had read the following, with the grace of God I became resigned. At least it gave me a chance to make a good vigil during the night. Blessed be God.

At this time I have in mind no good candidate, not in Rome where I know that Abbe Ardizzoni, who is in the household of Cardinal Cavalchini, a learned and pious priest, who was to go as vicar general for the deceased bishop of Novara. But who knows whether he would consent, and he is a Piedmontese. Abbe Micconi, with whom I have had some dealings, seems to me pious and quiet, but I have no knowledge of his learning nor his style. I think he is very good. He was vicar general at Farfa, if I am not mistaken. You can be sure that God will provide and will provide well. I wish I could help out with the blood in my veins, but will do it with the prayers of these servants of God.

I thank His Divine Majesty that the work of the Retreat goes ahead so happily, for that greatly scorches the accursed devil, who is scheming to disturb it with persecutions that are aroused. However, to his chagrin these are being turned into precious joys to enrich your spirit the more. All this week, even up until Corpus Christi, I will offer all my prayers, etc., to implore from His Divine Majesty help in this trial. I rest at your feet and ask for your holy blessing and prayers, and with profound reverence I say I am,

Your humble, unworthy servant,

Paul of the Cross