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John Anthony Lucattini (13)[297]

San Angelo

September 16, 1752

J.C.P.

Reverend Father John Anthony,

I was expecting some happy news of their arrival, as I wish to hope, but until now I am disappointed. Now I do not wish to wait longer to write and pay you a visit in the Lord. I have a strong faith that your spirit continues to remain solitary in the inner sanctuary, reposing like a child on the bosom of the Heavenly Father, and making sure that you keep your interior temple well decorated with flowers of every virtue.

You, Lucy, what are you doing? Have you celebrated the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross, which was the day before yesterday? The Feast of the Cross is celebrated well every moment in the inner temple of the true lovers of the Crucified. How is it celebrated? I will tell you as best I can. Do you know how? It is celebrated spiritually in silent suffering without support from any creature whatever. Because feasts are celebrated with joy, so the Feast of the Cross of Lovers of the Crucified takes place in suffering and silence with a happy and serene face so that the feast is hidden from all creatures and open only to the Highest Good. In the feast there is always a solemn banquet, feeding on the Divine Will after the example of our Crucified Love. Oh, what sweet food! This food is seasoned in a variety of ways, either with pains of body and spirit or with contradictions, calumnies, being despised by creatures, etc. Oh, how sweet a taste to the palate of the spirit that tastes in pure faith and holy love, in silence and in hope. Listen to another point.

For good digestion one must have rest and sleep. It is necessary to take this sleep of faith and love on the holy breast of the Divine Spouse, which is a furnace of charity. In this heat, even in this Divine Fire that consumes all imperfections, believe me, one sleeps well. It makes for excellent digestion so that the interior stomach is prepared to accept, even devour, more food of suffering.

Do not forget to recommend me to the Lord in your deepest prayers, and do it as customary for the whole Congregation. I will be leaving here around October 8. Pray His Divine Majesty and be joyfully at the banquet of the Cross. I digest badly because I do not sleep. Oh, when will this poor fellow sleep a little? Enough! I am happy with everything in the Will of God. Jesus make you both as holy as I desire but with the secret sanctity of the Cross of Jesus.

Tell Lucy and Maria Angela that they be faithful to God.

Dear Father John Anthony, do not forget in your holy sacrifices and prayers our affairs, etc., nor the poor one who is writing. I embrace you in Christ Jesus and am from a true heart,

Your affectionate, obligated servant,

Paul of the Cross

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297. This letter, written at San Angelo, is quite different from those Paul had recently written to Lucattini and Lucy. There is no tremendous plea for prayers, no cry that the Congregation is falling apart. Rather he describes in telling language how the true lover of the Crucified celebrates the great Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross.