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Maria Cherubina Bresciani (37)[303]

San Angelo

January 18, 1753

J.C.P.

My Blessed Daughter in Jesus Christ,

I received your letter, dated December 3, and have not replied to it sooner because I returned to this Retreat only Saturday afternoon, being absent since October. I was on Visitations to our Retreat in Orbetello but did not have the opportunity to travel to the mission at Longone. When I did have that opportunity, I was unable to do so because of my heavy duties.

You come closer to God when you have less external consolation, and, if the Lord is pleased to have you walk with deep despoiling, even internal, and with complete abandonment to the Divine Good Pleasure, oh, how rich you are in Jesus Christ. That is true poverty of spirit!

I already am acquainted with the ideas of Signore Thomas, but they will not be completed in my time. Many souls long for such a work, and I know of one pious family who are prepared to give all they have, which is considerable, to establish a Retreat as a nest for the doves of the Crucified. If our Congregation is raised to solemn vows, as I want to hope, then realization of this holy work becomes easy. But who knows whether that will be while I still live! All the more so since I do not wish for that because my soul can only desire the fulfillment of the always adorable Will of God. All my prayers go in this direction.

Sister Maria Cherubina, live entirely hidden in Jesus Christ and repose on his Divine Heart like a child and allow yourself to be completely penetrated with his bitter sufferings, for in this and for this the love of God flames up in us. Let us rest absorbed in love in the depth of the Divinity.

It is written in Sacred Scripture that the Lord will do the will of one who fears him: "The Lord will do the will of those fearing him."

Take heart, cry out to the Lord for the work you mention, but take your repose in peace in the Will of God and without the least anxiety. Above all, pray for me, for I am in extreme need. Greet your Mother Abbess, the Mother Vicaress and all the others you mention. Let them recommend me to the blessed God.

Jesus reward the charity of all. I am writing in haste. I enclose you in the loving Side of Jesus, whence I pray for you every blessing. Amen.

Your unworthy, useless servant,

Paul of the Cross

303. Paul mentioned that he had arrived in San Angelo the preceding Saturday and had been away "since October." Again he writes to Bresciani about the convent for Passionist nuns, but solemn vows are needed.