

**Francis Appiani (12)**

Presentation

June 14, 1738

*Jesus and Mary be praised.*

Dear Son,

I received two letters from you, the first dated April 15, the second dated May 8. I did not reply because I was conducting missions. I am back only a few days. In reply I say that anyone who wishes to serve God in an outstanding way must suffer outstanding anguish and outstanding afflictions. The temptations you write about are the tests from God to see whether you are faithful. Therefore, fight manfully, for after the battle peace will come. In all truth, there are good signs, so in these horrible fantasies flee to Calvary and hide in the pure Side of Jesus. Make a fool of the devil there.

Above all, do not abandon prayer, even if you are forced to keep yourself there with the pain of hell. Jesus persevered in agony and sweat blood. You have not come to that as yet, so you are wrong to be crying. If you ever leave prayer, mortification, and the practice of the holy virtues, you will find yourself in a hopeless abyss of ruins. Remain in the Presence of God and rouse your spirit with ejaculatory prayers, with darts of love toward God, and repose in the divine bosom like an infant on the bosom of its mother, but with supreme confidence.

It is well that you learn a lesson from your parish priest. I do not have time to write further. Pray for me, for God knows my status. There is no expectation that I might be able to come to the island at this time. I am too occupied with missions, and on the first of September I leave once more.

Pursue the good and do not be philosophizing so much about yourself or your actions. Proceed with the upright intention of the pure love of God, and let the devil roar as much as he wants. Stay withdrawn and speak little. God bless you, and I am always,

Your true servant,

Paul of the Holy †, Apostolic Missionary