

Christians, and this is the gift which you as religious are specially consecrated to minister, not first to your scholars, but first to your own household, Christ's family, your religious community.

Think of this charity of Jesus Christ in heaven which His Holy Spirit comes to deepen in you to-day by accepting your sacrifice of yourselves.

It is not your little soon-exhausted feeling of tenderness and interest, it is a Divine mystery, God's love shed abroad in your heart by the Holy Ghost, nothing less than that, and that is a power which has deeper resources and wider reaches than you have ever explored yet. But this great power is given you to exercise not first, for your scholars ; you are called to the common life of Religion in order that in that School of Charity, the Religious Home, you may learn the love of Christ with which He sends you to the children, that best learning which cannot be set down in the most perfect code, but which children are quick to understand.

Face fairly this duty of charity towards your Sisters which you accept and profess to-day. As you mean this, and offer it in your vows, your religion will tend to become "*true religion*." There is nothing that so instantly awakens our suspicion of unreality in religious persons, as hardness, coldness, unnatural absorption in themselves and their own piety, forgetfulness of the little tendernesses towards others which nature knows, and grace perfects in the likeness of Christ.

When we get old, how uninteresting we shall become, uninteresting to whom ? Not to Christ—the object of growing old is to grow in love—to learn at last to exercise that gift of Christ's love which in our youth we had hardly discovered. And our interest in one another, young or old, is Jesus Christ's interest in each.

You must never get so absorbed in your interest and work among the children, as to get drawn away from the focus of charity, the fellowship of your Sisters in Religion ; it is *there* Christ calls you, it is *there* you are first to practice the lesson, which afterwards you pass on to the children. It is while you are planted together in Christ *there*, in the love of your community, that you will stretch out branches right and left that will reach one generation of scholars after another with blessing.

If you ever lose this love of your community (which GOD forbid) and hope to find your delight in your work outside, you will be sadly disappointed ; the work may grow and get a good report, but it will not be your response to Christ's call, it will lose its joy for you, because you will find in it nothing but an