

director he was ; and he is now raised to the altar with the title of Venerable.

Rosalie was present at the first sermon he preached in the town, and, as she listened, the conviction came over her that this was the promised director. She felt impelled to seek him then and there, but was restrained by natural diffidence.

However, some days later, Rosalie was at a party with several others of her age, when the bell of the Ursuline Convent in Paray rang out for service.

Remembering that it was the Feast of St. Augustine, whom the Ursulines look upon as their father and patron, because they follow his rule, she thought there might be a good sermon to hear. Accordingly, at her urgent request, several of her companions accompanied her to the convent chapel.

Her piety was rewarded, Père Claude de la Colombière was the preacher, and the words of the great Doctor —“O beauty, ever ancient, ever new, too late have I known Thee ! too late have I loved Thee !”—repeated by so powerful an exponent, sank deeply into this heart, prepared to receive the good seed, which was to bring forth fruit a hundredfold.

Although Rosalie had not led a bad life, yet she deplored her waste of valuable time, her indifference to and neglect of the many graces God had vouchsafed her for “unto whom soever much is given, of him much shall be required !”

She therefore resolved to delay no longer following the counsel of the apostle to work out her salvation with fear and trembling. Seeking Père de la Colombière, she at once placed herself under his direction. He, finding this soul so pleasing to God, led her on up the path of perfection, cautiously and gently at first, smoothing the way for one so used to the flatteries and false caresses of the world, as Rosalie had been.

Later on she remarked that had he not been so kind and persuasive in this early stage of her conversion to a better life, she would have gone back to her former indifferent and careless state, and we know how dangerous is