

We despise Mary, above all, when we despise her Son by committing sin. Mortal sin is the greatest affront that we can offer to her Son. Sin dishonors Him by destroying grace in the soul and making it a slave of Satan. When the Blessed Virgin appeared on the mountain of La Salette, her eyes were full of tears, her countenance expressive of deep sorrow. Why? It was because, turning her eyes to earth, she beheld everywhere souls degraded, debased by sin. It was, again, because her children, alas! in such numbers, blasphemed God, violated the Lord's day and, by a voluptuous and sensual life, profaned their title and character of Christian.

How many of them, in spite of her tears and sufferings, in spite of all her loving efforts, have lost their souls, and are now and forever in the abyss of hell! And these souls, once a part of her family, Mary loved, and desired to draw to herself that she might associate them with herself in happiness. But in vain did she extend to them her arms! How her maternal heart must have thrilled with horror on hearing these words: "Depart, ye cursed!"

Have I myself a great respect for my Mother in heaven? Do I look upon her as the most sublime creation of God? Am I persuaded that, being the Mother of God and at the same time the Mother of men, she has a right, — *latria*, or the supreme worship due only to God, excepted — to all kinds of worship, all kinds of homage? Have I for her the most profound veneration in thought, word, and action? Have I the highest esteem, sovereign respect for her name, her images, her sanctuaries, her worship, her prerogatives, and all that relates to her person? "*Honora matrem tuam!*" Honor thy Mother!"

Another duty of the child toward the mother is exact *obedience*, prompt and perfect. What does Mary desire of me? Hear her at this moment addressing to you the recommendation that she made at the wedding of Cana: "Whatsoever He shall say to you, do you!" Consequently, do you wish to be pleasing to me? Then, be detached from the world, be humble, meek, and merciful — pray, respect your parents and all representatives of authority, — fly impurity, injustice, and lying. Love your neighbor and, above all, love my Son whom you have the happiness of possessing in the Holy Eucharist. Come often, every day if possible, to assist at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, the memorial and renewal of the Sacrifice of the Cross. Approach the Holy Table as often as possible, and eat with fervor and love the Divine Bread that I have prepared for you. Spend as long as you can in the company of my adorable Son, who remains here in the Host to help you, to sanctify you, and to save you.

Hearken, again, to the earnest recommendations that Mary in these latter days addressed to her children. When giving the Miraculous Medal to one of her servants, she suggested as an ejaculatory prayer these beautiful words: "O Mary, conceived