

## 39. Such a great spirit of humility

*This is the distinctive spirit of the congregation that we find in Fr Raffin's Rule and Sr Marie Denyse's Directory: "All the Sisters will work to acquire and develop...a very special devotion to the most holy Virgin, their mother, queen and model, expressed above all by the imitation of her divine love, her charity towards the neighbour, her humility and her abnegation". (Rule I, 1)*

Thank you so much, Father, for the honour you have bestowed on me by enrolling me in the Society of your Third Order. How did you come to think of me? You have not told me yet what I must do to fulfil the obligations of the Society. Oh well, I shall unite myself with all those people who make it up.... This is but one more grace given to me. My gratitude to God would have to be as great as the ocean. (This is saying a great deal, you know, Father, the ocean being so immense. Believe me that when I want to press together repeated acts of love for God into a few words, I say to Him: "My God, I tell you that I love and adore you as many millions of times as there are drops of water in the ocean.")

Please convey to all our sisters my warm love and good wishes. You tell me that they strive to imitate the hidden life of the Blessed Virgin. Father, what am I going to do to become like them? My life is not really a hidden one. I realise that with the stir I have caused I can never hope to come near to a model as perfect as Mary. I therefore beg all of you, my dear and loving sisters, to come to my aid lest I be left behind on the path of the love of God. Ask our loving God to deign to accept the offering I make of my whole being, that he would never allow me to fall back in the face of difficulties, but that above all I would never mistake my will for his.

Marie Françoise Perroton (Tahiti) to Fr Pierre Julien Eymard (Lyons),  
August 2, 1846, (OPS I, 13)

Mary's humility in welcoming God's plan in her whole being, body and soul, is so attractive, so profound and so unique that it can only be understood by our own living of that same humility. This is how we can understand Marie Françoise Perroton's joy on learning that she had been incorporated into Mary's family.

