

35. Intimate union with God [Theory]

Sister Marie Denyse was one of the first formators who, after missionary experience in Wallis, took the Rule written by Fr Raffin and added to it a Directory for the Sisters of the Third Order Regular of Mary. Little by little she grasped in depth, and put down in writing, the demands of our Marist, missionary and religious vocation. This directory was to be used in the formation of generations of sisters and remained in force until the pontifical approval of the Congregation in 1931.

The life of a perfect Christian is not simply a hidden life, but a life hidden with Christ in God, which shows us that its source is intimate and constant union with God.

And what is this union? It is the soul, interiorly absorbed with God and the things of God through the exercise of habitual prayer; it is the soul contemplating God, longing for Him, waiting on Him alone for all it desires, bringing back to Him all it undertakes. Peace, silence and solitude of heart characterise such a life. The soul is alone with God alone, enveloped, as it were, in His fatherly embrace, delighting in the most sublime communication with Him. The soul speaks to God, questions, listens, responds and above all, focuses all its affections on God alone in an incomparable act of love, joyfully putting before Him all its desires. And while the soul laments that it still feels so far distant from Him, it rejoices in coming closer to Him more and more each day.

Rules of Mother Mary Denyse,
Art V, pp. 120, 121, 122

