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“Come, Lord Jesus”

Dearest Sisters,

When we are constrain to immobility it seems like time never pass. That’s what I experienced after a long trip to India. But that experience was not useless, in the same way I was able to do little things, above all it was a period of physical rest (not mental), of reflection, of prayer. I did not feel alone, much more because my room was above the chapel; I was able to follow the entire community act. All of this at the beginning because then I had a regular life after the elevator had been activated.

“No falling leaves if God does not will it”. In the same occasion, needy of many things I appreciated more the preciousness of community, of the sisters. Sometimes we bear the community as a burden, like a “maximum penance”, like a purgatory says Pope Francis. We must not look at the community under this bad light, but let us try to discover all the positive, the richness, the genuineness of the gift that is given to us by the religious life. Sometimes we are very superficial, we stop at the margin, and we judge each other negatively because of little contrasts, tensions and conflicts. Yes we have limitations, of shadows that sometimes constrain to silence the grace; we have difficulty enduring the defects of one another.

Pope Francis says that all these things are inevitable in a community; living together with persons who did not choose each other is not easy, that is why we must exercise the holy “patience”. It is said that diversity is richness, but it is difficult to understand so much more to live. Let us focus on the positive side of each sister, banish gossiping that flake off the community: “Criticism and melancholy away from my house”.

I stayed in India where I enjoyed the vivacity that reigns between the sisters, a vivacity that unites, recreates you, make you sisters. Of course between them there’s no lack of difficulty of character, not all are roses and flowers! We must learn how to handle differences. Many times, after a day of heavy work it is easy to get angry, to lose patience, in order to avoid this difficult situation, let us do a preventive examination from morning.

Dearest Sisters, we are going towards the new liturgical year. Advent is a joyful time of waiting to live in prayer and meditation. A journey to do together with Mary to get to welcome Jesus our Saviour prepared well with her. Under her gaze, our mother, all life acquire different face; us also like her, let us dispose ourselves to pronounce again our unconditional Yes to God who has done great things to us.

Our generous yes permits us to generate Jesus in our life. Mary generated him in flesh, we are called to generate him in our faithful witnessing as consecrated persons. Advent as a time of waiting invites us to a more vigilant prayer, more intense. I believe that we must ask ourselves and commit ourselves in this. “Come, Lord Jesus” is an invitation that we must repeat frequently in this time. We have a need of his presence; with his nativity he identifies himself with us, makes his our joys and sufferings, hopes and labours, he takes everything to himself our weak humanity, our live and vibrant mixture of earth and of heaven. Let us make a way that this time of grace does not pass like many others, without touching us and transforming us internally. That Christmas maybe for us a lively and sanctifying encounter with Jesus, with his love. To the extent that we are persuaded that he loves us, also grows our total adherence to him. Christmas does not imply only the birth of Jesus but also our re-birth, we always have a need to start anew, to renew, to revitalize our joy of belonging to Jesus Christ.

Religious life, as we all know, is in conformity to his life. Let us confront ourselves and ask. “How much Christ is there in our life?” Jesus, like to Peter asks us if we love him. We can respond truly: “Yes, Lord, I love you dearly”.

How can we not love Jesus who presents himself to us and for us like a dear little boy, weak and helpless in the miserable cave of Bethlehem? Let us gather together all our strengths to provide Jesus with warm and comfortable woven bands with so many acts of love.

The Blessed Virgin Mother will rejoice and together with her adorable Son will give us her caressable blessing.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Madre Angelisa Spirandelli

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