

...when it was daylight, the altar was ready, a bell was put up, and immediately mass was said. This was sufficient to take possession. But we did not stop until we had the most Blessed Sacrament placed in the tabernacle. And through the slits in a door that was opposite the altar, we heard mass, having no other place to be.

With this I was quite content because to me it was the greatest joy and comfort to behold one more church in which the most Blessed Sacrament was placed. But my joy lasted only a little while, for when mass was over I looked out into the court from a window and saw all the walls were in ruins in many places and to repair them would take many days. O my God! when I saw your Divine Majesty exposed in the streets at so dangerous a period as we now live in on account of these Lutherans what sorrow and dismay came to my heart.

And to these were joined all the difficulties that were raised by those who had greatly opposed me. I saw clearly that they had much reason in doing so. It now seemed to me impossible to go on with what I had begun. As before, all things had appeared to be so easy, considering that they were done for God, but now the temptation had such power, that I thought I never had received any favor from God. I could only see my own baseness and weakness. Relying only on my own misery as support, what success could I hope for?

Had I been alone, I think I could have managed better but the thought of my companions returning to their house, after all the opposition they had met with since they left, seemed to me very hard. I also imagined that having been wrong in the beginning, all that I had understood our Lord would do had no foundation. A fear suddenly came on me, that what I had heard in prayer might be a delusion; and this was not the least but the greatest source of my trouble and uneasiness. I had begun to be extremely fearful that the devil had deceived me. O! my God, what a sight it is to behold a soul, which you are pleased to leave in such pain! Truly, when I think of this and other afflictions which I suffered during these Foundations, it appears to me that bodily pains, and I have endured very severe ones, are nothing in comparison.

But in spite of all this grief which so much oppressed me, I did not in any way reveal it to my companions, because I did not wish to afflict them more than they were already. In this trouble I passed a great part of the evening, until the rector of the Society of Jesus sent a father to visit me, and he greatly encouraged and consoled me. I did not tell him all my sorrows, but only about the fear of seeing us all in the street. I began to talk to him about renting a house for us (whatever the cost), until ours was repaired. I now began to be encouraged seeing so many people come to our aid, and no one accused us of folly, which was a mercy of God; for had they thought about our situation, they would have been quite right in taking away from us the most Blessed Sacrament. Then I thought about my own stupidity, and how it was that we were not made to consume the hosts. If they had, all would have been a failure.

In spite of all the effort put forth to find a house, not one could be found to rent in the entire town. This worried me night and day because though I had appointed men to guard the most Blessed Sacrament, I was afraid they might fall asleep. So I would get up in the middle of the night to guard it myself through a window by the clear light of the moon. I could see it very clearly from that spot. A lot of people came to see us every day. Not only were they not displeased but their devotion increased more and more seeing our Lord once again in a stable. His Majesty (who is never weary of humbling Himself for our sake) appeared unwilling to be removed from where He was.

About eight days later a merchant, seeing our need, and living in a very nice home himself, offered us the upper part of his home. He invited us to live as if we were in our own home. He also had a very large hall with a gilded roof which he gave us for a church. There was a lady named Dona Helena de Quiroga who lived very close to the house we had bought. She was a great servant of God. She told us that she would help us to get the chapel ready right away in order to house the most Blessed Sacrament and *that she would do what it took for us to live in enclosure*. Other people also freely contributed alms to support us. But it was Dona Helena de Quiroga who helped us the most. Because of her help I began to feel calmer and more rested. Our location provided us perfect enclosure and so we were able to begin reciting our office. In adapting the house to our needs, the good owner went to great lengths and very quickly. But in spite of all his efforts, the project still took him two months to complete. He did such a good job that we could have easily lived there for several years. Later on, Our Lord, Himself would continue improving on the finished product.

Questions:

- 1/ What is the great fruit of obedience to Church meditations as revealed in this text?
- 2/ Why does it take time for grace to act?
- 3/ Why does God want us to be dependent on one another?

Quia respexit humilitatem ancillae suae;
because he has regarded the lowly state of his slavegirl