



## Benedictine Daughters of Divine Will



### “Do not let your hearts be troubled” (John 14:1)

Have you given some thought to what we talked about in our last newsletter? To refresh everyone’s memory, we started to touch upon attachments – those things in our lives that we’re not ready to give up. We often think of them as physical things – possessions, bad habits, certain pleasures. But our deepest (and most harmful) attachments come from within – those inordinate “needs” we greedily hold onto interiorly which, when not satisfied, manifest themselves as anger, jealousy, resentment, or depression. Maybe we’re addicted to affirmations, affections, our own opinions. Do we need to be the best, to be right, to be noticed? How about successful, attractive, or impressive?

Our focus the last time was pride as the root of all our issues. But roots can’t grow unless nurtured by some good soil. There’s another word at play here that makes us all cringe, something else we don’t like to admit that we suffer from: FEAR. We grab onto the things of this world because we are afraid of our nothingness and we’re searching for security. Solution? Divine grace. We won’t be able to take control of this one and fix ourselves. Only God can see the whole, long complicated picture of who we are and provide the healing that we *all* need, without exception. However, we have to be ready to correspond to that grace, to welcome the medicines our Heavenly Father knows we need.



Medicine often tastes horrible and certain cures can be pretty painful or uncomfortable. Who would willingly agree to them without believing in their healing powers? Well, it’s the same with the spiritual life. We often close ourselves off to and even outright reject God’s “treatments” because we don’t trust in His love, goodness, wisdom and power to heal even the most retched parts of our souls. In fact, blinded by our fear and pride, we’re not even able to recognize His beautiful plan to free us from bondage in all that happens to us. And do you know why? The answer to that will be different for each of us, but we want to humbly throw out another question: *How much time do you spend on your spiritual life?* We’re not talking about good works and charitable activities, but about time spent in prayer, meditation, contemplation, and in the study of our incredibly rich Catholic faith.

The devil and the world are constantly filling us with lies that leave us unhappy in the long run, even if they do at times give us fleeting satisfaction. Only daily doses of divine truth combined with prayer can fight off the infectious diseases that we have allowed to take root in our hearts and render us so weak. And the more these wounds of our heart are healed, the more we will seek our security from the right source – the Will of God. Only there will we find true freedom and the love that drives away all fear. *Aren’t you happy?*

*“For lowly people You save, but You bring down the eyes of the proud. For You, O Lord, give light to my lamp; O my God, brighten my darkness. For in You I shall be delivered from temptation; in the power of my God I shall scale any wall.” (Psalm 18:27-29)*



**Afraid of your own miseries and weaknesses? Feel inadequate and incapable of everything? Great! That's God's favorite raw material. Let Him transform that fear of yourself into confidence in Him alone. And what was once scary and debilitating will become a source of consolation and fortitude.**



“I was praying my lovable Jesus to come into me in order to love, to pray, to repair, for I didn't know how to do anything. And sweet Jesus, moved to compassion for my nothingness, came to pray, love, and repair together with me. And then He said to me: *‘My daughter, the more the soul strips herself of herself, the more I clothe her with Myself. **The more she believes she can do nothing, the more I act in her and do everything...*** I listen to what she wants to do. Love? I go to her and love together with her. Does she want to pray? I pray together with her. In sum, her stripping and her love...bind Me and force Me to do with her whatever she wants to do. And I give to the soul the merit of My love, of My prayers and reparations; and to My highest contentment, I feel My Life being repeated, and I make the effects of My operating descend for the good of all.” (Luisa Piccarreta, Book of Heaven, Vol. 12, 6/14/1917)

“So that I should not get above myself, I was given a thorn in the flesh... About this I have three times pleaded with the Lord that it might leave me; but He has answered me, *‘My grace is enough for you: for My power is made perfect in weakness.’* It is, then, about my weakness that I am happiest of all to boast, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me; and that is why I am glad...For it is when I am weak that I am strong...I have been crucified with Christ and yet I am alive; for it is no longer I, but Christ living in me.” (2 Cor 12:7-10, Gal 2:20)

**Do you secretly crave the honor, praise, and esteem of others? Do you even try to impress God with your skills and talents, hoping that He'll use you for big and important things? How silly we are and how differently God thinks.**

[Jesus to Luisa]: “My daughter, it is My usual way to choose the most abject, incapable and poor souls for My greatest works. My very Mama had nothing extraordinary in Her exterior life - no miracles, not a sign that would make Her be distinguished from other women. Her only distinction was perfect virtue, to which almost no one paid attention. And if to some saints I gave the distinction of miracles, and others I adorned with My wounds, to My Mama, nothing - nothing. Yet, She was the portent of portents, the miracle of miracles, the true and perfect crucified - no one else like Her.

I usually act like a master who has two servants: one seems like a giant, herculean, capable of everything; the other one small, short, incapable, seeming to be good at nothing...Now, having to send a million or a billion [dollars] to another country, what does he do? He calls the little one, the incapable one, and entrusts the great sum to him, saying to himself: ‘If I entrust it to the giant, all will fix their attention on him. Thieves will assail him, they may rob him; and if he defends himself with his herculean strength, he could get wounded. I know that he is capable, but I want to spare him. I do not want to expose him to the obvious danger. On the other hand, this little one - knowing him to be incapable - no one will pay attention to him; no one would think that I might entrust such an important sum to him; and so he will come back safe and sound.’ The poor incapable one is surprised that the master would trust him, when he could use the giant. So all trembling and humble, he goes to deposit the great sum with no one deigning to look at him; and safe and sound he returns to his master, more trembling and humble than before.

I do the same thing. The greater the work I want to do, the more I choose abject, poor, ignorant souls, with no exteriority that might draw attention upon them. **The abject state of the soul will serve as safe custody for My work. The thieves of self-esteem, of love of self, will not pay attention to her, knowing her inability. And she, humble and trembling, will carry out the office entrusted by Me, knowing that I Myself did everything in her.**” (Book of Heaven, Vol. 12, 1/17/1921)



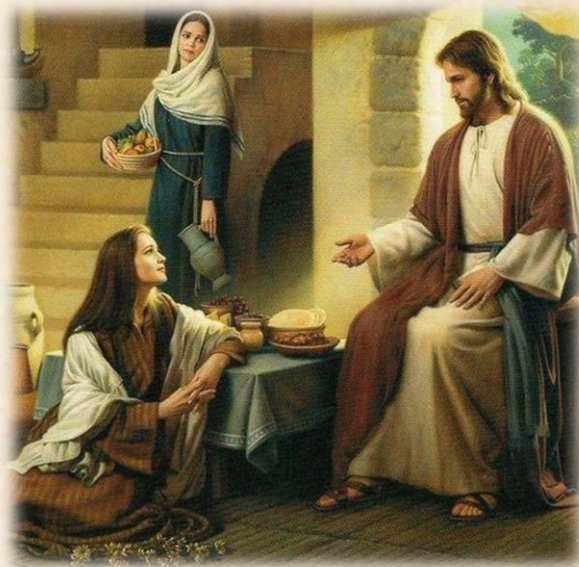


**Afraid of being forgotten, unnoticed, or unrecognized while others seem to shine with a holiness that all can see? Well, you have a decision to make. Do you prefer to give glory to God or to yourself? To be desired by the Creator or His creatures?**

[Jesus to Luisa]: “The sanctity in My Will will be symbolized by the sun... With its majesty and dominion, It rules over all and gives life to all, even to the tiniest flower, but silently, without noise and almost unobserved... I am waiting for My sanctity to have Its echo over the whole earth, and for My rays to come out to the light and to give Me complete glory, returning to Me the love and the honor which the others have not given Me. However, just like the sun, they will be the most unobserved, without clamor at all. And if anyone wants to look at them, My jealousy will be such that they will run the risk of being blinded, forced to lower their eyes to regain their sight. Do you see how beautiful is the sanctity in my Will? It is the sanctity closest to your Creator. This is why It will have primacy over all other sanctities... and will be life of all other sanctities... Everything passes between the soul and God; and if creatures receive good, they don't know where it came from. It really is like the sun - though it gives life to all, nobody points to it.” (Book of Heaven, Vol. 13, 11/12/1921)

**Afraid of human respect? Of being rebuked or ridiculed? Need the approval of others in order to do good? Let's take a look at a perfectly free soul, who was not held down by her past, could care less what anybody thought, and focused only on loving much her Jesus. Any wonder why Mary Magdalene was chosen as the first witness of the Resurrection?**

“In the course of their journey, [Jesus] came to a village and a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. She had a sister called Mary, who sat down at the Lord's feet and listened to His teaching. Now Martha, who was distracted with all the serving, went to Him and said, ‘Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the serving by myself? Please tell her to help me.’ But the Lord answered her, ‘*Martha, Martha, you worry and are troubled about so many things, and yet few are needed, indeed only one. It is Mary who has chosen the better part, and it shall not be taken from her.*’” (Luke 10:38-42)



“While [Jesus] was at Bethany in the house of Simon... He sat at table when a woman came in with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment, pure nard. She broke the jar and poured the ointment on His head. Some who were there said to one another indignantly, ‘Why this waste of ointment? Ointment like this could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor.’ And they scolded her. But Jesus said, ‘*Leave her alone. Why are you upsetting her? What she has done for Me is a good work. You always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish, but you will not always have Me. She has done what she could: she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial. Truly I tell you, wherever throughout all the world the gospel is proclaimed, what she has done will be told as well, in remembrance of her.*’” (Mark 14:3-9)

**What it all boils down to: *Afraid of not being loved?***

[Jesus to Luisa]: “I feel sad when they think that I am severe, and that I make more use of justice than of mercy. They behave with Me as if I were to strike them at each circumstance. Oh! How dishonored I feel by these ones. In fact, this leads them to remain at due distance from Me, and one who is distant cannot receive all the fusion of My love. And while they are the ones who do not love Me, they think that I am severe and almost a Being that strikes fear; while by just taking a look at My life... Mercy was My conception, My birth, My words, My steps, the Blood I shed, My pains – everything in Me was merciful love. Yet, they fear Me, while they should fear themselves more than Me.” (Book of Heaven, Vol. 14, 6/9/1922)



*“Can anything separate us from the love of Christ? Can hardships or distress, or persecution, or famine or nakedness, or threats or violence?...No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through the power of Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:35-39)*

### **So what do we have to fear?**



Sisters Francesca  
& Maddalena

## **Make time to take the sun**



Ok, we've given you quite a bit to chew on. But do you know what will help speed up and greatly sweeten the healing process? Remembering to rest in the love of God...just as you would under the sun on a warm day. Enjoy the beauty and utility of creation, recognizing a very real and personal "I love you" from your Heavenly Father in everything He made just for you. While praying the Rosary, bask in Christ's love as you meditate

on the mysteries of His life accomplished with you in mind. Find the time to place yourself before the Blessed Sacrament, absorbing into your very pores the immense love of Jesus that radiates from every consecrated Host. Don't run out of the church after mass, but rather sit in silent thanksgiving for a little while as Our Lord's sacramental presence transforms your soul. In all that happens to you each day, in every grace and cross that comes your way, listen for the loving whisper of the Holy Spirit calling you to the heights of sanctity. In every breath you take and every beat of your heart, remember the paternal care of the Most Holy Trinity who keeps you alive and delights in dwelling in your soul. Pretty soon, you'll be seeing the love of God everywhere!

You may or may not feel anything special in these moments because it's not about feelings. It's about using our memory, intellect and will – those three beautiful faculties that God embellished our soul with so that we may know, love, and serve Him freely. However, as you develop this habit, you will start to notice concrete differences in both your spiritual and temporal life. You'll be living like a person in love: you'll find yourself smiling more; virtue will start to come naturally and without so much effort; you'll begin to take greater delight in spiritual things and less delight in earthly ones. Little by little your wounds won't feel so sensitive to the touch and your self-will will lose more and more power. In other words, you'll be advancing more and more in the life of the Divine Will without even realizing it. Because do you know what happens during this seemingly selfish practice of receiving, receiving, and receiving from God? We become so overwhelmed with grace and gratitude, that our souls automatically desire to requite the Most Holy Trinity for all of that infinite and divine love They continually pour upon us. And since we've allowed ourselves to be filled by God, we have His own perfect, divine love to offer in return...with our little "I love You" dropped into that great sea.



Is this not *living* Rounds in the Divine Will? Is this not the life which Our Lady lived by grace from the moment

of Her Immaculate Conception and which Luisa learned to live? Like Our Blessed Mother, our life must be a continuous act of receiving and responding, pondering in our hearts and rejoicing in God our Savior...who looks with favor on His lowly servants. And the kicker: by doing everything in the Eternal Will of God, we will be embracing every creature of every generation. Isn't it just so simple?



[Jesus to Luisa]: "To whom did I give the office to color so many varieties of plants with so many varied tints? To the sun. Its light and its heat contain fecundity and variety of colors, such as to embellish the whole earth. And if the plant merely exposes itself to the kisses of its light, to the embraces of its heat, the flower opens up, and as though returning its kiss and embrace, it receives the tints of colors, and forms its beautiful complexion. Now, the soul who enters into My Will is symbolized by the flower that exposes itself to receiving the kiss and the embrace of the sun in order to receive the various colors that the sun contains; and by returning them, she receives the different colors of the divine nature. Truly she is the celestial flower which the Eternal Sun, by the breath of Its light, has colored so well as to perfume Heaven and earth, to delight the very Divinity and the whole celestial court with her beauty. The rays of my Will empty her of what is human and fill her with what is divine; so, one can see in her the beautiful rainbow of My attributes. Therefore, My daughter, enter often into My Will to receive the tints and the various colors of the likeness of your Creator."

(Book of Heaven, Vol. 16, 7/30/1923)



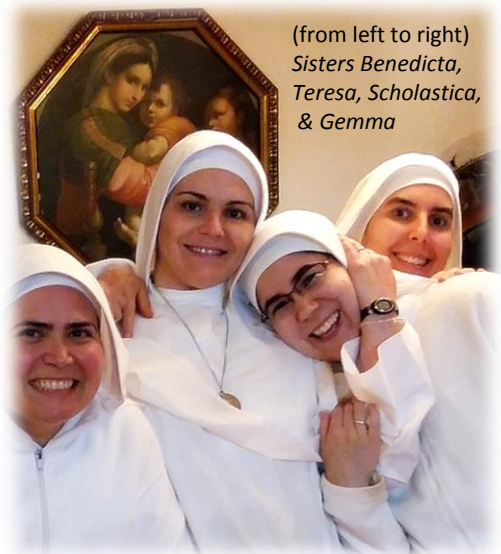
If you are interested in reading more beautiful teachings about living in the Divine Will, drop us an email at [daughtersofdivinewill@gmail.com](mailto:daughtersofdivinewill@gmail.com) and we'll let you know how to get your hands on all of Luisa Piccarreta's writings.



## ..... Vocation News .....

Please keep all of our aspirants in your prayers as they discern a possible calling to our community. They come from four different countries, yet all are seeking the same common goal...to live in God's Most Holy and Divine Will as a contemplative sister. After several vocational visits, one is already set to enter this month as a postulant while another hopes to be ready by next January. If you think God may be calling you to be a Benedictine Daughter of Divine Will too, drop us an email at the address above or visit the

"Vocations" page of our website. Don't worry...you don't have to be sure, just open to the Holy Spirit. Together we'll see what He has to say.



(from left to right)  
Sisters Benedicta,  
Teresa, Scholastica,  
& Gemma

By the next newsletter, Sister Maria Teresa of the Merciful Heart of the Eternal Father will be a married lady...married to Jesus, that is. Please remember her in your prayers as well, as she prepares to make her first vows on August 4<sup>th</sup>, Feast of Our Eternal Father\*.



\* Check out the "Family Tree" page of our website for more information on the Church-approved messages of God, the Father to Mother Eugenia Ravasio in 1932.



**“The gray days of daily normality have already begun...but in my soul the grace of God is still present...I am completely at peace about everything because I know that it is the work of my Spouse to think of me...Days of work and dullness, you are not gray at all for me, since every moment procures for me new graces and the possibility of doing good.”**

– St. Faustina Kowalska

*Sister Gloria Marie*



*Sister Maureen*

Finding homes for God's littlest strays



Are we doing this selfie thing right?



In the Divine Will, even a bread and water fast is fun.



Mother Gabrielle Marie making some new friends at a nursing home.

## Supporting the Sisters

If you feel called to help support the Benedictine Daughters of Divine Will this summer or on a regular basis, visit the “Donations” page of our website to make a one-time donation by credit/debit card or to sign up for automatic monthly contributions:

[www.benedictinesofdivinewill.org](http://www.benedictinesofdivinewill.org)

Or simply send a check or money order to the address of our non-profit organization below:

*(All donations are tax-deductible)*

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We're praying for you all every day. Please keep praying for us, too. May God bless you and grant you a restful summer in His Most Holy and Divine Will!