

CONVERSATIONS WITH MARY

THE VIRTUE OF JUSTICE

JUSTICE inclines a person to render what is due to others.

DEVOTION TOWARDS HEAVENLY PATRONS

Mary had great devotion towards many saints, especially Mary, the Mother of God. The Rosary was a prayer she constantly prayed when travelling, walking quiet streets with a companion, and the Assumption was her favourite festival, also being the day of her religious profession. She led her sisters towards a deep devotion to St Joseph placing convents and schools under his protection and choosing his name for the Congregation. John the Baptist, St Ignatius and St Teresa of Jesus all were claimed for support when the need arose.



Writing to her sister, Annie, in 1885 she wrote:

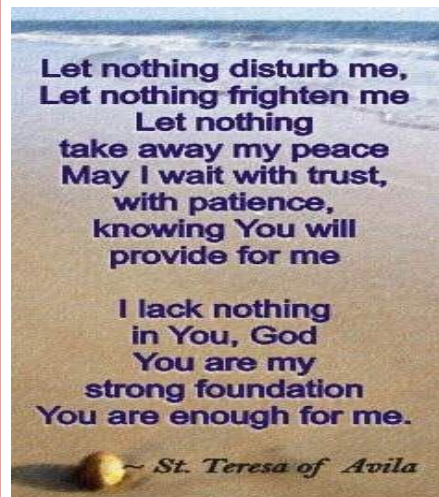
But if you think a little and call to mind what you have read of the trials of other Orders, you will find that ours only comes in for a share of what God has always permitted to happen in His most chosen works. There is no order in the Church doing any good that has not been so tried, and often by some of God's greatest servants. St Teresa once chided God: If this is the way you treat your friends, no wonder you have so few!

St Teresa's account of her own excommunication reads dramatically:

Taking no notice, fifty-five nuns voted for me. Each time he was handed a vote, the Provincial excommunicated and cursed; he crushed the voting papers with his fist, then stamped on them and burned them. The nuns have been excommunicated for a fortnight, they're not allowed to hear mass or go to choir even when Divine Office is not going on; no one can speak to them; neither the confessor or their own relatives. Best of all, the day after these forced elections, the Provincial returned and ordered them to begin all over again. They replied there was no reason to do so for they had already voted. Thereupon he excommunicated them again. (St Teresa, Letters, no. 198).

Here Teresa reveals her humour and her courage. No wonder Mary had a devotion to her.

REFLECTION: WHAT IS YOUR REACTION WHEN THINGS SEEM TO GO AGAINST YOUR WISHES?



SPEND SOME TIME REFLECTING ON THIS PRAYER.

INTERCESSIONS:

- Pray for those being treated unjustly at this time.
- Pray for yourself that you will be able to live a just life.
- Pray for our children and youth that they can find a path through conflict.
- Pray for those suffering from domestic violence and abuse.
- Pray for those whose privacy is unjustly treated in social media.

PRAY TO MARY OUR MOTHER:

Remember, O most gracious virgin Mary, that never was it known in any age, that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help, or sought your intercession, was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, we fly to you, O Virgin of Virgins, our Mother. To you do we come. Before you we stand, sinful and sorrowful. Do not, O mother of the Word Incarnate, despise our petitions, but in your mercy hear and answer our prayers. Amen.

Resource: *The Virtues of Mary MacKillop*, Paul Gardner.