

ON THE WILL OF GOD (AN EXTRACT)

I feel all the weight [of the office]. But one thought reassures and supports me: it is that in accepting it, I simply made an act of obedience and that bearing the burden I am without a doubt doing the holy will of God. The holy will of God! That's all we wanted, asked for, sought before the Chapter meeting and especially during the three days immediately preceding the election, and it manifested itself in such a clear and touching way. [...]

I do not consider my unworthiness, my weakness, nor my inability. I want to seek only the divine will. The words of St. Paul have been realized again: *Infirma mundi elegi*. God chose what is weakest.... It seems to me that God has made a commitment to supplement my helplessness.... It is Our Lord who will govern you, I want only to be his voice, the instrument of his dedication and love for your souls. [...]

If I am allowed to boast, I can boast of having loved and of loving my brothers, all my brothers; of having loved and of loving the Congregation.... I received so much from it! It took me the day after my first communion and raised me as a mother. I grew up, wrapped and warmed by her tenderness. I can say, like Cardinal Guibert, but more truly than he: "If there is anything good in me I owe it to the Congregation."

Dedication will become my law. [...] I do have one interest, one concern: to help and support you to the best of my ability to work for the good of your souls, to find and use the most appropriate means to maintain and develop among us the religious spirit, the spirit of our venerable Founder. That is what is important. The rest will come as

needed. Let's be good Oblates and we will be good missionaries. Sanctify ourselves and we will be more able to sanctify others. (C. Augier, Circular No. 66, June 1, 1898, *Circulaires administratives*, 2, p. 323-327)