



RAYS OF LIGHT

Texts selected according to theme
from the "Diary of a happy man"
by Fr. Mario Borzaga OMI

Presentation

The writings of Fr. Mario Borzaga, and especially his *Diary*, are inspiring, but they are also devotional for lay people of all walks of life as well as for religious. One of his phrases which comes to mind is: "It is useless to become emotional in the presence of the saints; we must imitate them." (29.07.57).

The figure of the missionary priest is fascinating for young people in particular. That is obvious from the thousands of writings, comments and the witness to favours and graces obtained through his intercession. The "fame of sanctity and martyrdom" is on the increase day by day. Just to give one example: the visits to the website marioborzaga.it, which was set up in 2004 had already hit 18,000 strikes in February 2013 and the facebook page had 1,300 fans

All of this goes to explain the request I have received from many people: that a selection of texts on various themes be prepared with a view to a more in-depth study, with prayers and quotations.

The themes suggested in this publication are selected exclusively from the *Diary of a Happy Man* and seem to give expression mainly to the personal feelings of Father Mario, and his calling to sanctity and martyrdom. I have devoted one part in particular to Devotion to the Sacred Heart, which was characteristic of his spirituality.

Father Mario *prayed as he wrote and his writing became a prayer.*



Fr. Angelo Pelis OMI
Postulator

Rome, February 24, 2013 - 50th Anniversary of my Priestly Ordination.

*O Jesus, I beseech you that I may become, in the real and true sense of the word,
a religious, a priest, a missionary, an apostle of your Sacred Heart, a martyr..*
(Unedited writings)

Mario Borzaga was born in Trent on August 27th, 1932. At the age of 11 he entered the minor seminary, first of all in Drema, because of the war, and later in Trent, where he pursued his studies up to the first year of theology. At the age of 20 he entered the Congregation of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate.

On November 21st, 1953 he took first vows at Ripalimosani (Campobasso).

In the Oblate student House of San Giorgio Canavese, throughout the following four years, he prepared himself in prayer and study, for the mission *ad gentes*, following a dream which he had nurtured for years. After final profession which he made on November 21st, 1956, he began his final preparation for the priesthood which he approached, as he wrote himself: "as a mother would the birth of her child" and he continued: "I wish to form my faith as solid as granite; otherwise I cannot be a martyr." (February 1st, 1957).

On February 24th, 1957, he was ordained to the priesthood.

He had a solemn celebration in the cathedral of Trent, his home parish, on Sunday April 28th. On July 2nd, 1957 He received his First Obedience for Laos and on October 31st of that year he boarded ship in Naples with the first group of Oblate Missionaries for Laos. Father Mario, then 25 years of age, was the youngest of the group.

After one month at sea, they arrived in Laos. He spent his first year in Paksane, a little town not far from the capital, Vientiane. There the Servant of God devoted himself to the study of Laotian in preparation for his mission to the people to whom he wished to proclaim the Good News. In his "Diary of a Happy Man" (Edition of 1985-'86 and the more complete edition of 2005) and in the numerous letters he wrote from Laos, he describes the journey of his soul and the difficult life in the mission, which was rendered even more difficult by the communist guerrilla warfare.

Towards the end of 1958 he reached the Christian community in the little Hmong village of Kiucatiem. He got to work preparing catechists, visiting families, receiving and caring for the sick and the numerous arrivals at his doorway every day.

On Sunday April 24th, some Hmong tribesmen came to see him after Mass, renewing their request that he come to visit their village of Pha Xoua, a three-day journey on foot over rough mountain paths and through tropical forest. It was a missionary journey which would take a couple of weeks and it was now the beginning of the rainy season.

On Monday, April 25th, Father Mario set out, accompanied by his young catechist, Tho Xyooj Paul. They were not to return from that journey. A search party who went to look for them found no trace of the missing men. The testimony provided by witnesses right from the beginning and those received since then and especially in recent months, are a confirmation of what has always been known; both were killed by the "Communist Pathet Lao".

The Cause for Canonization of Father Mario and the catechist Paolo Thoj Xyooj was opened at local level, in Trent on October 7th, 2006. It was closed on October 17th, 2008. The Positio, at present being prepared, is awaiting approval. That will then be studied by theologians and Cardinals who will be asked to give their opinion concerning the martyrdom, and also concerning the life and virtues of the Servants of God.

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Apostolate - Apostles

I have read in my notes that suffering makes the apostolate fruitful. I made a quick revision to see if there was some suffering and to offer it up at once to Jesus King of Love (20.10.56).

Feast of Saints Simon and Jude; I like the Feasts of the Apostles because I have been called to be one of them (29.10.56).

The figures of the Apostles are immensely pleasing. These men, once they have seen Christ, have never forgotten him and have gone to preach his words of love in every land; men who had their shortcomings, but who were driven, impassioned by the Cross, by the suffering of Him who died for our salvation (30.11.56).

Feast of the latecomer, Saint Matthew. The occasion of the celebration of the first Mass of my life: it so happened that he was an Apostle and a Martyr (25.02.57).

It is the feast of the Apostles Philip and James: a very attractive couple, especially the former who must have been a subscriber to the weekly puzzle paper if we are to judge from the questions and answers he fields in the Gospel. The other fell, especially if we judge from his letters. He makes no bones about it and says that to love God we must do things and not be content with words (11.05.57).

Sometimes our work, like that of the Apostles, is broken up by fear. But when they were terrified by a ghost, the Apostles discovered (12.05.57).

Today is the first Thursday of the month: the Priesthood of the Sacred Heart... that was one of the most beautiful dreams of my life (06.06.57).

Even though I may not be successful in my apostolate, I will be like the seed thrown on arid ground, to be trodden upon by everybody (15.06.57).

Today the feast of Saint James the Apostle, martyr, lover of love! (25.07.57)

Saint Thomas: I too, like the Apostles, feel that I am one of those sent to the ends of the earth, of those built upon the corner stone which is Christ (11.12.57).

Today is the feast of that Apostle who has always been dear to me: Saint Mark. He is a saint but he does not pretend to be a saint; when he is afraid, he pulls back. Saint Mark, the silent evangelist, gregarious and fit to be a leader, Peter's interpreter. (25.04.58).

The apostolate to be done is not outside in the villages, on the mountains, but within myself; otherwise I shall be a spent force, a walking skeleton who does not bring Christ with him. Be either with him or against him. Mediocrity is vomit..... (15.07.58).

The Lord has given me the Grace.... of following in his footsteps, of coming here to Paksane to be a Saint and an Apostle, everything to be a Saint and an Apostle ... (22.11.58).

... the apostolate by means of Grace, Grace by means of prayer and Sacrifice. That should be the program of all my life as a missionary (08.12.58).

I am tormented with doubts that to be here in Laos is not the place for me. ... I am too shy, I am afraid of everything... 20.02.59).

Is it not the Crucified Christ Jesus who should be the apostle in Armando (*Mario*) ?... as long as he preaches with his own voice, he will not speak with the voice of Jesus. Once Armando has been discarded, when he is trodden on and despised, ill treated and beaten out of his own skin, it is then that he will be an Apostle (17.07.59).

Church

My thoughts throughout the day were just there ... with all of those who, throughout the world, die without knowing why there is so much hatred for God and his Church in the world. I realize that I too have my share of responsibility in this matter ... (04.11.56).

The History of the Church is being repeated even in our own time, even in my life.... The History of the Church is the story of those who love Christ and give their lives for Christ ... it is therefore the story of a wonderful adventure of failures and triumphs ... I am a member of the Church, a soul belonging to Christ, inserted forever in this divine adventure of failures and triumphs ... I am one belonging to the Church a soul belonging to Christ, inserted forever in this human and divine adventure, I have not become a deserter and consequently I must fight (20.01.57).

I must not and I do not wish to look for Jesus in any place other than that in which I have been placed by the Catholic Church, his radiant Spouse, acquired by him at the cost of his blood (17.02.57).

A priest of Christ and consequently completely at the disposal of his Spouse, the Church ... cutting out all fantasies and unfounded problems ... unworthy of one who, at the altar, has renewed the mystery of his Love and Blood in the Church (21.02.57).

The History of the Church ...is the "history of my mother" and I believe that it is very useful for us missionaries to know the history of the Church ... and the history of all the holy martyrs who have fought and died for her (23.05.58).

Belief in Jesus and in all that the Church teaches is the only joy of my whole day. I believe at every moment (24.05.58).

... I am a son of the Church, in spite of all(25.05.58).

Laetare Sunday, Why should I not rejoice with God and with the Church of Christ? ... Why not give infinite thanks for God's special love for me? He has shown his special love for me, He has given me the Faith, He has given me knowledge of the Church (08.03.59).

... here in my chapel, the Church of Christ is present, together with his saints, his martyrs, with all those who are praying for me and who expect me to pray for them (02.07.59).

I ask God to pardon everything and I desire once again to try and remodel myself in holiness for the Church of God (11.03.60).

Cross

... I have chosen the Cross as my joy (04.10.56).

... yesterday we opened the schools just as though we had always been going to school; tomorrow we shall carry our cross just as though we had always carried it, and we shall put up with it as though we had always carried it, and we shall suffer as though that were the most natural thing in the world, but Jesus will take account of all that (08.10.56).

... the cross alone is our life (18.10.56).

Jesus bestows abundant crosses on his contemplative souls (01.11.56).

I did well during this morning's Mass ... by asking Jesus not to suffer, but to bestow the grace to suffer, the strength to carry immense crosses as He did (03.11.56).

I have understood my vocation to be a happy man while making every effort to be identified with the Crucified Christ (17.11.56).

I was not alarmed at the Crucifixion of Jesus at the elevation. At Communion I recited firmly and aloud my perpetual oblation at the time of Communion. ... Then Jesus came to me, bringing all that the God who is Victim of Love can bring to a soul which he has made to be the object of his special love. Jesus is my all and there is no one else between Him and me. Jesus does not separate himself from me. I shall carry my cross, his Cross, everywhere (21.11.56).

Today I began my long day into the night ... but if I persevere in dying each day I shall be able to say *ad vitam usque perseveraturus* (I shall persevere for my whole life). ... Therefore, let us carry on! The cross is there. All I have to do is carry it (21.11.56).

I try to find Jesus everywhere, because, if I find him or his Cross, I am sure that I love; if I do not find it, I have reason to doubt (28.11.56).

... it is not easy to write about the Crucified Jesus unless we live accordingly (16.12.56).

... at no time do I feel so small as when I wish to write about great things. And what can be greater than the Passion of Jesus? (12.12.56).

Today I recited what was probably one of the best Rosaries of my life; I meditated on Jesus in the Garden, scourged, crowned with thorns, crucified, as it were with the eyes of the Madonna, while the angel announced to her *Ave Maria grazia plena* (04.01.57).

I made a fervent Way of the Cross; I asked Jesus to make me understand, once and for all, the mystery of the Cross, of the Blood, of the side pierced by a lance ... (18.02.57).

In making the Way of the Cross, I thought about how He had chosen even me to carry on the Way of the Cross: to be a bearer of the Cross, a priest (19.02.57).

I asked Jesus, seeing that even He had fallen beneath the Cross, that if I fall I may rise again at once, but above all, that I should not offend him, That is my cross, sinfulness. (20.02.57).

... we must live the strange paradox of the bloodstained Cross and of the overflow of joy from the Cross (01.03.57).

Jesus, teach us once again the way of the Cross; may the light of Calvary be yet again a friendly light for us, do not hesitate to love us as we are ... (08.07.57).

The cross should not be forgotten as a result of not carrying it habitually (15.12.57).

Each day we assist at the tremendous Sacrifice of the Cross and we are not in the least impressed by it (26.12.57)

Whatever is not of the Cross belongs to the kingdom of nothingness, just as whatever is not love belongs to the kingdom of hatred (06.01.58).

... a large thorn has pierced my heart; why do I not love Jesus as I ought to love him? Why do I not love his Cross? I shall not be a priest other than with the Cross of Christ, sharing in his Mass. (26.03.58).

At the ninth hour on the 14th of Nisan: God had reached abandonment, the mystery of unfathomable Suffering. Thus the world was saved. ... With the Crucified Jesus in us and we crucified with him.(17.04.58).

From the altar to the office, from the Cross to joy, my days are all the same. There is nothing else (14.07.58).

I am my own cross: I am a cross to myself. My cross is the language which I am unable to learn. My cross is my shyness which prevents me saying a word in the presence of a Laotian ... (27.08.58).

A vocation to the Cross has no fear of suffering (29.05.59).

And you, you have already begun the Calvary of your apostolate. Along the way you will find the company of Christ crowned with thorns and at the summit the Crucified One, then shall come the Night and afterwards the Resurrection (28.07.59).

Devotion to the Sacred Heart

In the final analysis, the Heart of Jesus and his Love: that is the aim and ideal of my time on earth (17.10.56).

Tomorrow is the first Friday of the month and I feel that the Sacred Heart is none other than an old friend of mine (31.01.57).

Poor and dear souls who have come to my very poor and very dear confessional. I love you all! I have spoken to you of Jesus, of the Sacred Heart, of the Madonna, of her love, especially of her love (01.08.57).

I believe that I have made a good retreat, now on the Vigil of the Sacred Heart. This evening we did the hour of adoration with the boys (12.06.58).

All the divine Office kneeling before the Blessed Sacrament: God knows how long ago it is since I last did that! That was good! If only I could continue to do so throughout the month of the Sacred Heart, how wonderful that would be! (31.05.59).

I put some roses in the church. Roses give a beautiful perfume of the month of June in church, of devotion to the Sacred Heart (09.06.59).

The last day of the month of the Sacred Heart: how many are the graces his Sacred Heart has given me during this month! Certainly there have been quite a few, perhaps more than those of which I have been aware. The Lord loves me (30.06.59).

Difficulties have not been lacking, quite the contrary, but the Lord is here to help me. This is the First Friday of the month and the Sacred Heart has given me this grace (03.07.59).

Eucharist – Mass - Priesthood

My Mass is very strange because on the altar of my ego Christ is sacrificed on account of my failings and my lack of love; My Jesus who is going to his death for my sins, is offering a sacrifice completely for the benefit of my soul and for love of me...(26.10.56).

If I wish to be like the Eucharist, a good bread to be eaten by my brothers, becoming their divine nourishment, it is necessary that I pass through the death of the Cross. First comes the sacrifice, then the joy of distributing myself to the whole world (17.11.56).

I shall live the life of the Eucharist and the Immaculate Conception so that, with their strength, innocence and candour they will overshadow my great sinfulness (07.12.56).

I know that I shall do nothing extraordinary. But the Mass is such an extraordinary event that it makes up for everything (13.02.57).

I hope for great things from my priesthood. I believe that Jesus will transform me completely; He wishes to establish in me a Kingdom of Love and Sacrifice (19.02.57).

It is unworthy of me as a priest to complain of suffering (a mean little suffering), when I have scattered the Blood of Christ the Son of God on the altar and satisfied my thirst while promising him my Love... No! I never want to be a parasite at the altar. If Jesus has given me his love, I must love in return, if he has given me his Blood I must give blood in return! From the moment I accept this exchange I must act upon it! (21.02.57).

...I shall pray to the Immaculate and Sorrowful Mary, by her side, with her, in her, I shall ask the Eternal Father who chose me in his kindness, that he will continue to love me with the same love; and I pray that, moreover, he will give me the grace to love, to sacrifice ... with the priestly Heart of of the Word .. (23.02.57).

... on each day of the journey another wrinkle appears on my forehead, another grey hair comes to my brow and to my heart, but Holy Mass wipes out everything, makes everything more beautiful and restores youth to a priest who celebrates his Mass well, and in a holy manner. Just like the lilies of the field! (01.03.57).

The Mass is a reality! It is a sacrifice, not mere poetry! ... Therefore I should not be surprised if I have to suffer a little. Would you wish to experience only the joy of Thabor? The joy of Thabor without the squalor of Calvary is unknown. So get up and go! Do not be a parasite at your Mass (11.03.57).

... seventeen years ago I made my First Holy Communion. It was a shy March day, with no sun and no dark clouds. There were hundreds of us side by side in the great cathedral and we were about to

receive Jesus in our children's hearts. ... how many among those children were chosen as I was to be priests and Missionaries? (14.03.57).

On a little altar, in the silence of the chapel, or in murmuring prayers to God, alongside the lamp and two candles, how many times have I renewed the tremendous mystery of the Crucifixion and Death of my friend Jesus, love of my childhood, strength of my youth (08.05.57).

... The Eucharist is the gift of the suffering of Jesus: we have the Bread because we have Golgotha, we have the Tabernacle because of the Cross, we have the Wine because of the Blood. There is no divine nourishment if there is no pain, it is the winepress which squeezes Grace and Life. All of this is the result of love, the love of God (16.05.57).

His blood, his flesh are there on the altar as a guarantee of Holiness and Love; his Grace is in our souls. My Jesus, my Jesus, I shall never abandon you, never, never (26.05.57).

It is useless to try and understand who Mary is in our life without going before the Tabernacle of Jesus and reciting slowly the Ave Maria, meditating upon the Mysteries of the life of the Lord. We get to know Mary by loving and praying: she is like a treasure which has been sought out for a very long time ... (04.06.57).

... my Mass is always a wonderful poem... offering to God my regret for not having been totally fascinated by the suffering of Jesus on Calvary (06.06.57).

Feast of the Visitation of Mary, one of the most important days in my life: I received my Obedience for Laos. I would go there in the name of the Lord. Immaculate Virgin help me! Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, I wish to be one of yours; like Peter, Paul, Barnabas, Luke, John, James, I thank you and I love you! (02.07.57).

This morning I celebrated the Mass of the Stigmatines. I celebrated at that altar where, as a boy, I served hundreds of Masses, Oh God! How much time has passed since then! (25.07.57).

If only I could spend my whole life before the Tabernacle in prayer, only in prayer. If I could celebrate one long holy Mass and thus save all men (02.12.57).

Jesus wishes us to believe in him alone: He wants us to believe that the Mass is not merely a sacred rite, a liturgical function, but a Sacrifice, His Sacrifice, which alone can save the world, (06.01.58).

I trust in God, in the Blessed Sacrament, to whose presence I seemed so closely united this morning. I have everything to hope for from God who loves me. (22.02.58).

... I desire that the Eucharistic Jesus be my nourishment, I desire that his suffering be my suffering and that my suffering share in his, that my will be his and His be mine; I wish that his Love should penetrate me and my little Love be totally His (20.03.58).

... why do I not love Jesus as He should be loved? Why do I not love his Cross? I shall only be a priest by the Cross of Jesus, by sharing in his Mass (26.03.58).

... I hear from the past the memory of a voice. ... the saintly Eugene used to say to us with weeping in his voice "My sons, there is no such thing as a mediocre priest in the Catholic Church; there is no such thing as a mediocre priest, a mediocre priest is a bad priest" (17.04.58).

This is my priesthood and I find that it is beautiful even without active ministry. What a stupendous ministry it is to celebrate the divine Sacrifice! (24.05.58).

... The Mass of the Holy Spirit. Light, Fire, truth, Love, Freshness, Peace, Rectitude, Clarity, these are the great themes on which I have meditated one by one while Jesus offered himself in my hands and the mystery of the divine Sacrifice was brought about in me and in the Church (25.05.58).

I asked the Heart of Jesus to make me a holy priest, humble, obedient, mortified, totally dedicated to the Will of God (13.06.58).

As we ask the Father for the bread to carry on, let us ask our Mother to show us the way and for a little tenderness for our weakness which sheds tears, which hesitates, which falls (30.05.59).

I have prayed well this morning and today. The whole Breviary on my knees before the Blessed Sacrament. It has been quite a while since I did that! (31.05.59).

Life in the presence of the Eucharistic Jesus is immensely beautiful. I wish to live increasingly like that. I wish to pray for the times when I did not pray, to love for the times when I did not really love. (12.02.60).

Faith

I made the Way of the Cross in the chapel, in the darkest darkness you can imagine; there was only the little flame of the Blessed Sacrament and my little quota of faith and love to lighten the darkness (18.11.56).

I wish to have my faith formed firmly and solidly, otherwise, I shall not be able to be a Martyr; Faith and Love are indispensable (01.02.57).

I am doing a meditation on the Madonna: all too late have I begun to realize that we should meditate on Mary day and night; I am convinced that she loves me in a special way; that she has chosen me not only for the priesthood but for holiness (18.03.57).

I realize that in order to love it is necessary to have great faith, and to believe it is necessary to have great Love (08.04.57).

My night has only one flame: Faith. I still love to believe (14.06.57).

I have so much faith in God who guides my footsteps and at times makes me understand the gentleness of the situations in which He places me (22.12.57).

Jesus wishes that we believe only in Him: he wants us to believe that the Mass is not merely a sacred rite, a liturgical function, but a Sacrifice, His Sacrifice which alone can save the world (06.01.58).

Why not give infinite thanks for the special love of God for me; He has given me the Faith, He has given me knowledge of his Church? (08.03.58).

... I believe in Christ and in his love; ... Belief in Jesus and in all that the Church teaches me is the one joy of my day. And I believe at every moment of it. (24.05.58).

Holiness

Domenico Savio was a saint at 15 years of age. I too wish to be a saint (14.10.56).

I do not know where Jesus will lead me, but when He sanctifies, he does not lead us by the way we had imagined. ... Jesus, when he decided to make me holy, took the whole world around me, with all its defects, and he took me all together ... I must love Jesus with my whole life (03.12.56).

... I must become holy with Jesus who encircles me, that is all; all is quite normal, even my falls and dissipation, I have only to embrace the Cross and start all over again (13.12.56).

... to become a saint, courage is more necessary than time; therefore, in the present circumstances, I must get a move on. I must not let any occasion pass to become holy in the shortest time possible (16.01.57).

... I am convinced that becoming holy here in the scholasticate does not present any great difficulty, to wait until later would be very dangerous (17.01.57).

All of us have the desire to become saints, the means to do so are given to us by Grace; the miracle of Love is never to be discouraged (27.01.57).

... if I wish to be a holy priest, I should wish for nothing else because this is the mystery which I have in my hands every day: the mystery of blood, of total immolation (19.02.57).

Mary ... has chosen me not only for priesthood but for holiness. She is the only one who can help me to observe my Rule as her Oblate (18.03.57).

I stopped in the darkness of the corridor to think of the dark night, which Jesus, if He wants me to be a saint, will cast upon my soul. What does it mean to be in the dark, all surrounded by blackness? But Jesus is the Light! (29.03.57).

O God how I thirst! How I thirst for holiness, for love, O Jesus! You alone can put an end to this torment. (07.04.57).

I pray that all that is in me may be holy and sanctifying, that in me there may one thing only, Grace, one sentiment only, Love (28.05.57).

... people have spoken to me about Padre Pio: he must be one who really loves souls because souls do suffer; it is useless to become emotional in the presence of saints; they must be imitated (29.07.57).

So many years have passed and I should be a saint by now. Little Saint Teresa of the Child Jesus was a saint at 24 years of age and Saint Elizabeth of the Trinity at more or less the same age (05.12.57).

I keep putting off my sanctification for another day even though I know very well that my salvation will depend on this present moment (16.12.57).

O Jesus, you who come upon our altars every day, make me holy. I wish to begin tomorrow . (31.12.57).

Any hour is a good time to decide to be a Saint, that is, really a Saint, one of those who love and are loved by God (01.01.58).

Every instant is either a step towards holiness or a step backwards (05.01.58).

I want to live in God. I wish to get down to treading the path of holiness with all my strength; this is the only thing that Laos needs (20.03.58).

I must say that the desire to be holy has not yet been extinguished; Jesus never tires of making his presence felt in many ways (17.04.58).

Holiness is my heartfelt desire: the priest who is not holy is not a priest; this is something I have written in many ways, in many styles and fashions (26.04.58).

The happy time of wanting to be a Saint has passed; it is now time to be one. Evening falls and if promises are not kept, tomorrow will be darkness, even though the sun may light up the sands of the Mekong (27.08.58).

... Why want to be what we cannot be and which we should not be, when it is so easy to aspire to be what we can and should be? ... what will it matter to the Church if I learn the language in thirteen years, as long as I become saint in ten years time? (26.12.58).

He has called me to this adventure, to become a saint in the midst of the Meo people. (17.01.59).

What really matters is that become a saint at all costs, even though I have the material to become quite the opposite (08.03.59).

... what a joy it is to be holy, to be apostles, to be martyrs on a slow-burning fire! (31.03.59).

Once again I am filled with hope as I begin my climb towards holiness and the Cross, my climb towards the altar which I have loved and sought after (05.04.59).

Feast of the Visitation: I have been called to holiness -- the climb and the effort made to attain holiness shall henceforth be my method of apostolate (02.07.59).

O my God, make me love the Cross and that is sufficient. Make it possible for me to be holy and that is sufficient; even though I am the least of men who hope for such a thing! (07.08.59).

... I like to think that maybe some day I shall succeed in being really a Saint, even though I can see the difficulty in doing so in all its dimensions. Let us see what the future brings!. (12.11.59).

Hope

If Jesus rises at every moment in our hearts because we have Light and Hope within us, why should we be overcome by fear of darkness? Every night I shall remember this night, so that the sky may be blue and white as it was today on the sun-washed, joyful mountains (27.03.59).

Indeed the Lord has told me to work joyfully within the darkness of faith; he has taught me to have faith in the sun-burnt furrow and to love it; He has assured me that each one of my tears is a smile of hope, in his vineyard I continue to work and that is all (04.04.59).

Once again I am full of hope as I recommence my ascent towards the holiness of the Cross, my ascent to the altar, the object of my love and of my searching (05.04.59).

I am now here in the little church in the mountains and that is sufficient for me. Hope is all I have to make me happy (27.06.59).

Humility

When speaking of Jesus to children we must be like them, simple and free from all prejudice (04.10.56).

Jesus in the little host in the tabernacle teaches me abandonment, humility, availability, purity, love, how to suffer for my brothers and sisters (11.07.56).

I must become as though I were another Eucharistic Jesus: little, simple, hidden, available to all ... (24.07.56).

... Humility is the most beautiful aspect, the first conquest, the recognition of Love (30.07.56).

... the shades of darkness are illuminated by Love from the lighthouse of Humility, through which we become conscious of our own nothingness (31.07.56).

Listening to Jesus when He speaks through the intermediary of men and events is a great act of humility (23.09.56).

... the act of humility involved in asking Jesus for strength means that we have already received our request (13.11.56).

I want humility to be the foundation of everything. I do not wish to censure or reform anybody except myself but I also wish absolutely never to be discouraged even if I have to swim against the tide (19.11.56).

I have recited the Rosario fervently, meditating on the mysteries and asking Jesus in the Eucharist and Mary Immaculate to grant me the grace of LOVE, FAITH, HUMILITY! (26.05.57).

How bitter it is to be humiliated if we do not have the virtue of humility! (11.10.58).

... I prayed to Jesus to make me a holy priest in keeping with the desire of his Sacred Heart ; a humble, obedient, mortified priest, totally dedicated to God's will (13.06.59).

... How many are the things which, at the moment, we feel unable to do! But it is the Lord's will that we should feel thus incapacitated. Who knows if our humility will not bear more fruit than our capability? (10.07.59).

... I am afraid to struggle because I am afraid to be a loser, to be overcome, to be humiliated once again by being a loser (07.08.59).

How beautiful is the Office of Mary's apparition to humble people! (11.02.60).

Humility is necessary when there is a lack of know-how. I have learned that lesson from the observations of others who realize that I lack know-how ... (09.03.60).

Jesus in the tabernacle teaches me self abandonment, humility, availability, purity, toleration towards my brothers, through the intermediary of the little host. (11.07.56).

Joy - Happiness

This is the diary of a happy man ... I repeat the words of Saint Andrew: Ave crux diu desiderata which means that it will be the diary of a very happy man (19.10.56).

... I am totally happy even with my infidelities which I detest but which I love as being so many drops of the blood of Jesus (26.10.56).

I now understand my vocation: to be a happy man in my efforts to be identified with the Crucified Christ (17.11. 56).

I must love him: consequently I must not look elsewhere for happiness; only loving him can be called happiness (25.11.56).

How Jesus is to make me happy in suffering is his business; for me it is sufficient to know that He has promised to do so in the Gospel (07.12.56).

... I had resolved that the only happiness of my little life would be to Love... To be happy and to love it is necessary to conquer one's self; clearly to do so one cannot rely on one's own strength, it is necessary above all to have recourse to Grace (08.01.57).

Love of God

As I pass close to Jesus in the chapel, I remember to genuflect in the corridor and to pray fervently. Looking from outside, I see through glass and curtains, the lamp which keeps vigil before the Blessed Sacrament, and that has a certain effect on me. (01.10.56).

When speaking of Jesus to children, we have to be like them, simple and with minds devoid of all prejudice. (04.10.56).

My wish and hope is that, in the darkest and foulest area of my day, the love of Jesus should shine forth. (11.10.56).

But I shall "search for him in every moment of my life" and I wish for no suffering other than the pain and the joy of this painful and beatifying search (15.10.56).

Then I know that there are persons called Jesus and Mary, who are for me the one great object of my love. (21.10.56).

Love for Jesus must be most sublime if even a tiny part of that love, even a breath of it, must be purified by fire and blood in the eyes of God... Jesus does not want me, what He wants is my love. (02.11.56).

Jesus has made it possible for us to love him, not only in his Grace or in the tabernacle, but in everything around us and that happens to us. He permeates the whole of my life: He is love which makes himself loved always and everywhere. He never absents himself. (03.12.56).

Everything in me and outside of me is occupied by Jesus, there is no place for me except in him. I am in Jesus with my little love and with my great faults (04.12.56).

Thus my life is spent as though it were the greatest story in the world, because it is a story of Love, of Love with a capital letter. (06.01.57).

If Jesus has given me love I must return that love, if he has given his Blood, I must return that Blood! By accepting that exchange, I must give it. (21.02. 57).

You alone, O Jesus, know how long we would last in this world if you were not with us; all our movements would be in vain. What I want is to be identified with you, O Jesus, that you love with my heart, that I love with yours, that you speak with my tongue, O Jesus, that I speak with yours, that you think with my mind, that you bless with my hands, that you walk with my feet, that you suffer in my limbs. (21.05.57).

...a good way to become saints: to love Jesus, and Jesus in our brothers, to love doing his will, to pray and receive Communion in which the soul, by being nourished with Jesus, learns to love as He did. (02.06.57).

How beautiful it is to pause and think about the perfection of God in his nature, in his attributes: the greatness and beauty of his works, especially in Creation and in the Incarnation. God is Love! (02.12.57).

Why is it that Love can be taught only by one who lives Love and who is Love, even if he does not say a word, because he does not teach but communicates? (20.03.58).

I shall not tire of following Jesus because He comes after me with his Grace, which is Love, which is the Source, which is life. (14.07.58).

I believe in You... I love you more than any person worthy of love, because you are Love, the Source, the Life. (10.09.58).

Why should I not be infinitely thankful for the very special love of God for me? He has given me the Faith, He has made me know the Church. O my God how great is your love for me! What have I done to merit such love (08.03.59).

Jesus: He is the only one in whom we can continue to hope! ... Only the name of Jesus can continue to do something with us and for us. How great will be our joy when we shall love him forever! (03.01.60).

Our love for Jesus must be enthusiastic or not at all. That can be wearisome for our ego which must be crushed underfoot. at every moment of the day (29.03.60).

Love for our neighbour

Brothers throughout the world, you who carry the great Jesus in your hearts, lend me your Jesus so that my faith may be great and great may be my love and my Victory. I would like to embrace you all.

In the world there is too much sorrow caused by the egoism of men. I wish to give everything to my brothers, even my suffering and in that way to be the friend and comforter of all. (12.11.56).

I am ashamed to have been so many times to receive the Sacrament of Penance and be still intolerant. Indeed all that is harmful to me is my own (16.11.56).

To love is to do at every instant what Jesus would do; this is a thought which came to my mind quite often today and frequently that is what I have done; I am very pleased.(25.11. 56).

Besides, it is only by loving that we get to know Love.... Jesus who lives in my spirit can more easily love the Jesus who lives in my brothers, because the two are identical. (03.12.56).

Of course, you, my brothers, know that your sorrows are my sorrows, your joys are my joys, your love is a little of my love... I wish to take upon my shoulders, all your faults, all your evils, and thus to love you, to love your Jesus... (04.12.56).

... to help my brothers in everything and as much as possible, renouncing myself and what is mine as much as possible... (07.12.56).

I have learned something wonderful in these days: in order to love my brothers, in order to give witness of my love to them, I must begin with my own thoughts: thoughts, words, deeds (03.01.57).

I have come to realize that in order to be available to my brothers and to help Jesus in them, is possible only if we do not calculate our own time; our time belongs to God (09.04.57).

God has loved us so much that He gave his own Son for us; the only way we can repay Him is by loving our brothers, by loving Jesus in our brothers (04.06.57).

I am becoming accustomed to seeing Jesus in every person who needs my attention: from the little child whose ear is painful to the old man who is passing away. In that way my day is not frittered away in solitude and Jesus is loved in these my brothers who are so poor (28.06.58).

... for Love there are no strangers, there are only brothers, to be loved, to be received as a gift, to be received dressed as they are in the royal cloak of their poverty (25.12.58).

... Saint Mario, Martyr! Martyr for what? Perhaps for the love of God alone and charity towards his neighbour. I keep thinking how I too could be a martyr of charity, but could I reach that point ... just think that from morning till evening I must be at the service of others (19.01.60).

Oh, if only I could be available to everyone who comes to see me as one would await a loved one! (29.03.60).

As each one arrives at my door, I say from the bottom of my heart: "O Jesus, I love you in this brother of mine, through his suffering I ask you to forgive my sins" (30.03.60).

Martyrdom

Perhaps one day I shall be like you, drowned in tears and blood for the love of Christ, and you, brothers throughout the world, who carry the great Jesus in your heart, you will lend your Jesus to me so that my faith may be great and that great may be my love and my victory. I wish to embrace all of you, one by one, dear brothers of sorrow and of the resurrection! (04.11.56).

I know very well what it means to die, I know it is painful to die, but if from death comes Life, I shall die every day, from dawn to sunset (20.11.56).

Since martyrs are innocent, if I wish to be innocent I must be a martyr (28.12.56).

It is right that we should suffer something for the love of Jesus, even we from the rearguard, until such time as we are called upon to bear the suffering of the front line of battle (05.01.57).

The martyrs! Agnes, a young girl whom I have never met... she could be the model of my martyrdom ... (21.01.57).

At times I become overwhelmed by sorrow as I think of what I shall have to suffer, since I believe that it is for this Jesus has chosen me. The Christ who has chosen me is the same who has given the Life and the Strength to the martyrs and virgins; they were human as I am, made up of nothingness and weakness. I too have been chosen for martyrdom (19.02.57).

Even if I do not succeed in doing anything in the apostolate I shall be like the seed thrown in the ground to decay, to be trodden on by everybody ... I feel that it will be that way, but as from this moment I offer my sacrifice (15.06.57).

...Oh martyrs of self-love, wherever you may be! The tragedy is that I feel more inclined to make a martyr of Love than to become a Martyr of Love (15.07.58).

Today is the Feast of the Most Precious Blood. The Breviary says this: "You have not yet fought unto shedding your blood to counteract sin" (01.07.59).

Mary Immaculate - Sorrowful Mother

... I am increasingly fascinated by Mary, especially by her silence, her Faith, her humility, the natural way in which she practiced the virtues, her goodness, her purity (10.10.56).

This morning, since it was the Feast of the Motherhood of Mary, during meditation I wrote that I wish to live in Mary as Jesus did and to be carried by her wherever she wished. Therefore I try to imitate her silence,, (11.10.56).

... in saying the Rosary, the ten Ave Maria are in line with those very simple words of the Pater Noster: *Fiat voluntas tua* ...(16.11.56).

... I felt displeasure in finding in every Ave Maria the word "sinners" as the only definition of us, her children; I could understand saying it once or twice alright, but fifty times "pray for us sinners" (23.11.56).

Tomorrow is the Feast of the Immaculate, before Communion I shall offer to Jesus, King of love, all the prayers which people say for me and I shall offer all my sufferings for the most abandoned souls (07.12.56).

The one thing which the Immaculate taught me today is that Jesus wishes to enter every heart, to find his way into every house, even the most abandoned, to triumph in every world, even the most distant, but he wishes to be brought by hands that are undefiled (08.12.56).

... I have decided to increase my recitation of the beautiful invocation: Jesus, Mary, I love you, save souls" (12.12.56).

Today I recited what was one of the most beautiful Rosaries of my life: I meditated on Jesus in the Garden, scourged, crowned with thorns, crucified, as seen through the eyes of Mary while the Angel announced to her *Ave Maria, gratia plena* (Hail Mary full of grace) Yesterday evening, however, I fell asleep before finishing the Rosary; which happens every so often; following the advice of Bernadette, I fell asleep murmuring *mamma, mamma* (04.01.57).

It is Mary Immaculate who brings Christ to birth for mankind; we in our priesthood have become like her, bearers of Christ to the world, and we must imitate her innocence and all that is pure in her soul (11.02.57).

Mary Immaculate will make my soul similar to her own, so that the Heart of her Son Jesus may rest there more at ease. The Immaculate and sorrowful Mother, that woman who never sinned in her life, will extinguish in me the least offence to Jesus, so that my hands may be, like hers, worthy of Christ (19.02.57).

It is a great responsibility to share in the work of the Redemption: but there is reason to feel more at ease and safe in the presence of Mary; Immaculate and Sorrowful she has offered and suffered more... (21.02.57).

O Sweet Queen and Mother, who brought me to birth for Jesus and taught me to love him, tell me what I must do: what is the will of your Divine Son for me, and what is your will, O Queen of the Missions? (22.02.57).

... I have taken the resolution not to accept in my mind any thought which could not be that of Mary. I desire to think and work not with Mary, but like Mary (20.03.57).

On finding myself in the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist and of Mary's purity, I am fully conscious of my own insignificance ... (04.06.57).

Feast of the Our Lady of Sorrows: A person who is suffering must be understood and loved; If that person happens to be called Mary; let us pause, let us contemplate, let us think of her who has suffered immensely for us and let us resolve to suffer along with her. When I think of the Sorrowful Mary I cannot help thinking about the "sweet" soul of Mary pierced by a sword. I have visited the Shrine Our Lady of Sorrows in Cuceglio, there above on the hillside, outlined against the blue and the clouds of the Sky. I believe Mary was expecting me to do so.... (12.04.57).

... it is the Feast of Our Lady Mediatrix of all Graces. Grace is given to us by Jesus but it passes through Mary's hands (14.05.57).

The intimate life of God in our souls through Grace is wonderful. It is nourished, guarded with special maternal affection by Mary Immaculate (26.05.57).

With each Ave Maria I feel that I love Mary more. (06.06.57).

Oh Virgin Mother, I am in your Heart more than in your hands. (09.06.57).

Dear Mary most Sorrowful, here on this hillside we meet again, we shall meet again on the highways of the world. I shall find you again and you shall be my strength and courage for the journey as you have been this evening: a real spring of fresh water (17.06.57).

... Mary is the Mother of all that is Love (14.07.57).

Mary has shown her love for me today. It was a beautiful day: all was blue beyond the green of the cypress and larch trees of the woods, the lake of Serraió was beautiful. I am a little tired but it was beautiful to have been with Mary (28.07.57).

... without a great devotion to the Virgin Mary, to her who, silently, humbly and in Faith, chased away the Head of evil, life here in the Mission would be impossible: I mean the life of a missionary who really wanted to be a missionary (06.01.58).

... Jesus has remained in the Blessed Sacrament, but Mary has not remained; it is up to us to have the heart of her who gave birth to Jesus in the world; we are left with her virtue and the perfume of her purity, the strength of her humility, her constancy in sorrow, her fidelity to the will of God (20.03.58).

The Virgin of Sorrows never abandons those who suffer, because she is particularly interested in anything to do with suffering (21.03.58).

The most beautiful image of the Annunciation: a mountain covered with snow cast down from heaven; the whiteness of the snow; the Virgin Mary, the blue of the sky, the Angel. Here in Laos there is nothing like that, and nevertheless it is the Feast of the Annunciation (25.03.58).

Oh Sorrowful Virgin, all that I wish for is that you be my Mother: and I want to be holy; otherwise I am only fooling myself (26.03.58).

...the month of May has already begun, the month of Mary. It is the month in which we all pray and in which the Immaculate Virgin gives us oceans of grace (01.05.58).

It is terrible that I keep waiting for another tomorrow to be a little better, at least a little. Nevertheless I know that Mary expects great things in keeping with her Immaculate Heart, on the path of virtue. But it is I who have to move forward, although the Virgin Mary must give me the strength to do so (24.06.58)

May the Holy Virgin be my companion since she has brought me thus far. For Mary there is no dense forest; all is in her Heart. There are difficulties everywhere and it is possible for us to become saints everywhere (15.07.58).

The Feast of the Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin. I have just returned from Nong Hieng singing "La Fragoletta, on my way in the forest, without any nostalgia for youth or the mountain tops. In my heart I was fascinated by the Sorrowful Virgin; by my Mass celebrated in union with her sorrow in all the poverty of the little church in Nong Hieng (15.09.58).

... today was the feast of the Immaculate. I hope to find Mary Immaculate in these mountains, since often she has chosen the mountains as the place preferred for her apparitions (08.12.58).

On this cold day, receive O Mary, our sufferings, our misery, we who are slaves of our own weakness (17.01.59).

As we ask our Father for bread for the journey, we ask Mary to show us the way, and for some tenderness to alleviate our weakness ... (30.05.59).

The Feast of Mary our Mother and Queen: No feast of Mary passes in vain. A visit to the Madonna and a special Grace for my soul (31.05.59).

Mary of Sorrows, we are fortunate to have a Mother of Sorrows, not because this day is a sorrowful day ... but because we are in this valley of tears, and part of it stretches as far as Na Vang (15.09.59).

Something tells me that I should throw myself into the arms of the Virgin Mary, my Mother ... We have reached an island, the Virgin Mary, that is sufficient. (11.11.59).

Mission

Before leaving for a difficult mission, one should give a firm and sincere handshake to Christ the King. ... today, even my feet were those of a genuine missionary, sore, painful, aching after much walking in search of souls (21.10.56).

... I find the figures of the Apostles immensely pleasing ... men who, once they had seen Christ, never forgot and so they went to preach his word of love in every land: men with their own frailties but tormented, impassioned by the Cross, by the Suffering of Him who died for our salvation (30.11.56).

... Well then! I shall be truly a missionary! But, my goodness! What shall I do in Laos? Who will help me to put up with so much work, with so many problems? Virgin Mary, help me (13.07.57).

The missionary must go ahead, but his "going ahead" is an ongoing struggle to disentangle himself from all that could hold him back; it is a permanent exile from what belongs to earth or heaven. The missionary, as it were, must leave when his mother is not looking, when home comforts no longer interest him (16.07.57).

Every step made by the missionary is a step for the feet of God upon this earth (31.10.57).

The real torment for the missionary is not that his mother is faraway, nor is it the great number of infidels to be converted, but his fear of not doing the will of God joyfully and peacefully (09.12.57).

... I too am like the Apostles, I feel as one sent to the farthest corners of the earth; as one of those built on the cornerstone which is Christ. (21.12.57).

I would like to become a contemplative while remaining on the Missions; who knows what would be the effect of a contemplative missionary? (29.4.58).

... if ever there was a life for which I was not intended, it is that of a missionary. However, the Lord has willed that I be here, nothing else but that I be here in solitude. He knows why, and what I must do. (21.02.59).

These moments of calm are necessary in our missionary life, in order to feel God, in order to see more clearly within ourselves (12.06.59).

Prayer

Saint Teresa has taught me that I must make a special effort in prayer, even in the recitation of vocal prayer if it is to be done properly, in matters of self-renunciation: the latter in a special way opens the road to contemplation. (15.11.56).

... "Oh Jesus ... for all those who have entrusted themselves to my prayer, and for whom I am obliged to pray ..." (30.11.56).

I must be more fervent in my personal prayer because nobody can help me in this (07.12.56).

I like to pray especially at night because it is a good way to spend the hours of sleep beneficially; besides it is dark and the dark, if not gracious, is always beautiful (08.12.56).

I would like to pray as I write and to write as I pray (12.12.56).

Prayer is necessary, because in prayer I can discover where Jesus lives and his Heart; in prayer, Jesus finds a light in me which he can place on a lamp stand. (6.1.57).

It is beautiful to pray even when I have nothing to say to Jesus: because if I am not distracted, He speaks. (21.02.57).

Willingly I pray to Mary, reciting the Rosary in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament and meditating on the mysteries (22.02.57).

... this morning I thought of asking Jesus Christ for the grace of martyrdom, of an apostolate like that Saint Francis Xavier; instead I asked that I may observe perfectly the Rules of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate (25.02.57).

... I must and I wish to pray with faith and love ... (270.2.57).

How many hours of my life will I spend on this breviary? I do not know. Do I pray well? I do not know. How much grace, how much love shall I pour on souls with this praise of God? (15.03.57).

To pray is to talk with God, but trustingly, animated with a spirit of penance and docility to his grace. That is how Saint Joseph must have prayed. (19.03.57).

... I have prayed Jesus for my priesthood, because my priesthood is completely his and therefore it has to be holy (18.04.57).

To pray, Oh Lord, to pray for those who do not pray, to pray for when I do not pray! (19.04.57).

... I pray in order to avoid the danger of passing by the Light without receiving even a ray of it which I can carry to others, of passing by the fire without taking advantage of the heat for our icy path among men...(28.05.57).

What a stupendous act it is to celebrate the divine Sacrifice, to recite the divine Office, the Rosary, to pray, to suffer for souls and for all the priests who are struggling, hoping, believing (24.05.58).

In the evening, I prayed calmly for devotion, even though I had a little fever and some flu symptoms, "Do not be afraid" said Jesus and I felt very calm (24.02.59).

It is Holy Thursday. I wish to pray, I wish to belong wholly to God; I feel a longing for good, I feel that Jesus, who has suffered so much for me, can make me a saint, if only I wish that it be so (26.03.59).

... In my prayer I do not ask Jesus for joy, I do not ask for strength, only that I may love him as the saints and martyrs did (01.04.59).

I pray that my tiredness may be my strength. I do not think of the tomorrow which Jesus may give me but of the moment He gives me now and which I wish to live in a holy way, doing his will. (10.6.59).

... I pray very little, that must be put in writing. I no longer know how to remain on my knees, that I must confess. Life must be lived at a fast pace and thus everything is done in a hurry, even prayer ... (21.01.60).

I wish to pray for those times when I did not pray, to love for those times when I did not really love (12.02.60).

It is necessary to pray, because in prayer we find Jesus' letterbox and the way to his Heart; it is in prayer that Jesus finds a light to be put on the candelabra. (06.01.57).

... I prayed to Jesus for my priesthood, because my priesthood is completely His and it must be holy (18.04.57).

My Mother in heaven give me strength, give me strength O Queen of Martyrs, give me the strength of Christ's Passion, give me the strength of the Cross of the living God; give me the strength of the Virgin Martyrs, give me the strength of the Holy Confessors, give me strength O Venerated Founder on this your Feast Day ... (25.01. 59).

Now it is not a question of meditating, nor even of writing about my meditation, but simply of living it (30.05.59).

This morning again, having got up at half-past-four, office and meditation after a fashion... in the quiet darkness of the morning, while the village is still asleep; there is not a sound, one can pray in the morning; one can offer to God the peace of this short break in the morning, one can offer oneself to the Lord, an offering for peace in the brief passing of the day. One can pray and that is enough. One can love for those hours when we think we do not have time to pray and we do not remember to love... (06.02.60).

Prayers - collection of...

"Mother of God, you who have such great power in heaven, today I come to offer you my life. I beg of you to cast a glance at me as I kneel at your feet. I ask you to stretch out your hands and help me, body and soul. When the moment shall have come for me to leave this life, lead me, O Mother, into the Kingdom of glory and grant that I shall be happy in seeing you. Thus I shall sing a hymn of eternal praise. Amen".

"Jesus I did not think of you this morning but all I have done was done for you; I did not address invocations to you; but anything that was bad for me was mine. I am with you, beloved Jesus, even if you have left me elsewhere" (06.07.56).

"All that is hurtful to me is mine. O Jesus I believe that I have been with you in every sorrow and in every joy. Love of Jesus does not diminish but refines our sensitivity because it forms a heart that beats for all and for everybody" (07.07.56).

"Our fatigue gives us a right to receive from you, O Jesus, the strength to carry on – Has this been another of your days, O Jesus, or of mine? You have given it to me and it is right that I should give it back to you. Now I ask pardon for all my wickedness" (08.07.56).

"The joy of suffering for love of you, O Jesus is at nobody's expense. I believe I have loved you in my brothers. It is in love that the work of Redemption is brought about, in forgetting one's self" (09.07.56).

"At least I have not done great things for your Kingdom, O Lord. I have not loved you and my guilt is my suffering at this time. Make me live in your love and make me know your will" (10.07.56).

"... now, O Jesus, that you have given me the grace to love you by my suffering, teach me a way that is practical and efficacious to love my brothers" (11.07.56).

"... I no longer wish to suffer for love of you. I have asked you for Strength; you gave it to me but I was unwilling to receive it" (13.07.56).

"... I have come to realize that in order to feel your love I need some natural ingredients. But now what are you doing? You have hidden yourself. I believe that. Nevertheless, I love you so much! Thus I have become more like you, abandoned on the Cross" (14.07.56).

"O my Blessed Jesus, certainly this morning I did not feel that I loved you, but now I declare all my love for you in words and that is your doing through your grace" (15.07.56).

"O Jesus, I wish to be with you even though my way of thinking is very different from yours. Come close to me and drag me towards your love and to your will" (20.07.56).

"I feel so tired, O Jesus, and I am far from well but I love you just the same; I offer you this little suffering for souls. You wish for more from me and I ask you for the strength to give it to you: but I love you just the same" (23.07.56).

"O Virgin Mary, accept this abandoned Jesus in your arms and give him warmth, nourish him, love him for is he not your Son?" (10.10.56).

"How much suffering still remains, O Lord? It is you alone who knows and for me *fiat voluntas tua* (thy will be done) is true in any moment of life" (17.11.56).

"O Jesus ... for all those who have entrusted themselves to my prayers, for whom I have the duty to pray" (30.11.56).

"O Jesus, be born in this country of unhappiness, at least for Christmas! I and the Holy Virgin are lovingly preparing in joy and peace" (1^o.12.56).

"O Jesus how great is the suffering still in the world on this (Christmas) night. Speak to us, Jesus and do not leave us with the mysterious, O Infant! Such cold! Such hunger! So many wounds and so much blood! And why have we not received you? What a night of love, but there is so much darkness!" (24.12.56).

"O little Infant Jesus, with a gesture of your little puffy and rubicund hands can make the stars to fall and turn the world upside down, let fall from heaven those graces which we need so much: peace, freedom, holiness ..."25.12.56).

"O sweet Queen of Heaven, my Mother, you have brought me to birth in Jesus and taught me to love him, tell me what I have to do. I do not know where to turn; what is the will of your Divine Son for me and what is your will, O Queen of the Missions? Tell me at once, because I need to know. I shall do my part in praying; I shall renounce all that I must renounce. Heart of Jesus, if I have loved you, help me and enlighten me" (22.02.57).

"How I thirst, O my God! How I thirst for holiness, for love, O Jesus! You alone can put an end to this torment. Jesus, you have never ceased to say so in so many ways. ... to follow you in order not to walk in darkness and to drink the water from the well of your Love so as to quench our thirst;" (Passion Sunday) (07.04.57).

"Only you, O Jesus, know how much of our sojourn in this world is still left to us; if you are not with us then we shall have journeyed in vain. What I really want, O Jesus, is to be identified with you. Give your love to my heart so that I can love with yours, speak with my tongue, O Jesus, think with my mind, bless with my hands, walk with my feet, suffer with my limbs" (21.05.57).

"This is all scarcely credible, O Jesus, all that you have done for me. You waited for me as I held the lance on my hand, so that you could pardon me; you looked upon me inflamed with anger so that you could tell me that you still loved me, and that you wished to set me afire with love. And still, every morning I come before the Cross of your Agony in order to be sprinkled with blood; Now I see it all, O Jesus, and I understand it all. It is terrible to be so stupid in mediocrity as not to know what to do with the torrent of grace and of pardon which flows from your most loving Heart, to be unaware of how to love you as you desire to be loved O Jesus, or at least in proportion to the graces you have given me. That is indeed a lance thrust at your Heart to tear it open and behold what a surprise! In that way I can be flooded with your blood, thus I shall be sprinkled with that Blood, O Priest and Victim !"(24.05.57).

"O Jesus tell me why I do not love you more? May I speak to you in confidence: here I am, one of those whom you have loved so much; you would love me even more precisely because, day by day, night by night, I keep on forgetting about your love. Jesus, teach us again your way of the Cross, may the light of Calvary be a truly friendly light for us. Be pleased to love us as we are, poor, crooked, wounded and cancerous, whom you have found beneath the hedgerows, cowering like animals. We are human. This is not an excuse. It is a further reason for us to be loved by you" (08.07.57).

"O my God, if only I had been more fervent! If only I had loved more! But I want to begin to love now. Yes, I wish to love, O Holy Virgin, help me, with all your strength, love me, or else we shall be lost. Teach me the Gospel, the whole Gospel which I shall have to proclaim to the world, teach me the way of love. I shall always proclaim the Gospel with all my strength, teach me the way of love, I shall always proclaim the Gospel with all my strength" (25.07.57).

"O God, how much you have loved me again this year! And how I have gone far away from you by my mediocrity. O Jesus, rebuild in me the city of saints, lay the foundations of that beautiful dwelling. One thing is necessary: that I love you and make you loved" (31.12.57).

"O Jesus free us from evil! From all the evil that surrounds us and which at every moment penetrates the shrine which is our soul. We are not egoistic, dishonest, libertines, thieves, but we are not saints; we do not go in search of pleasures and riches, but neither do we go in search of the Cross; we do not look for human love, but neither do we look for that of Jesus, we do not waste time in useless or sinful pursuits but neither do we spend it in doing your will at every moment. ... The harmony of the soul is Love, love and Sacrifice, and Sacrifice is a struggle, a war without quarter on the battlefield ... Every instant is a step towards holiness or a step backwards" (05.01.58).

"But you, O Jesus, you knew that we are the sort who fall thirty times a day. We are good-for-nothing; nevertheless we often presume to be capable of great things, especially in the spiritual life, that is, of course, our field, but it is precisely there that we have to acknowledge tremendous defeats. And that is felt by your most sensitive Heart even before we ourselves feel it and even more than we feel it. Forgive us, O Lord, pardon us without ever tiring of pardoning us.... We wish for nothing else but to see; our only need is to have Light and Strength but let it be your Light and your Strength" (08.01.58).

“ O Lord have pity on us. Have pity especially on our lack of Faith, on our hardness of heart, on the hypocritical mediocrity of all our actions. Pardon us if we have thrown away your graces by the roadside, if we have tired of your Love ... You O Lord, have mercy on us, have mercy on us” (07.05.58).

“Jesus, I love you on this evening of peace and victory, on this evening which is yours as are all the evenings of the world. All that is here below is yours, even our faults and our sins which hang upon the Cross of a man condemned to die, because he was too innocent, because he was not a sinner, not man. All is yours, even the discomfort, the anguish, the remorse, the darkness of soul of those who pray and hope in your immense divine goodness. I believe in You, more than I believe in the real things that are around me; I love you more than any person who is worthy of love, because you are Love, the Spring, the life. I do not fear even myself; therefore I have no fear of Love. We no longer suffer anything, for you have suffered all; we too can be martyrs and crucified and our Passion will be only an episode of yours” (10.09.58).

“...Give me the strength, O Heavenly Mother, give me the strength, O Queen of Martyrs, give me the strength of the Passion of Jesus, give me the strength of the Cross of the living God, give me the strength of the martyrdom of virgins, give me the strength of the holiness of Confessors, give me the strength of our Venerated Founder; on this the birthday of the Congregation, which Mary loves” (25.01.59).

“Who has given me such a gift? Who has found me worthy of Peace, Pardon, of Love, if not you, O Jesus, the exquisite and unique lover of fragile little souls like small and delicate boats on the immense ocean of evil? ... Yours is the time and yours is the night, O lord, yours is the day and the passing of the sun; yours is the Grace and the Love, give us your time and your Love! ” (26.01.59).

“O my God how immense is your goodness! How great has been your love for me! What Have I done to merit such Love? I desperately believe in you, I, one of your weakest priests and a son of your Mother”(08.03.59).

“O Lord give me the strength to love them even as you love them, because I cannot do so on my own” (17.04.59).

“O Jesus, Son of Mary, why have I kept you waiting so long? Let me have a little more of your Cross so as to give you proof of the little love I can. I shall love you so much, O Jesus, and then weariness and self-denial will be easy. It will be easy for me to be humble, obedient, pure as the lily who was your Mother ... The time of weariness will be the time of trial. The time of trial shall be your time, O Blessed Jesus! Then I will be strengthened by your Cross and by your Heart” (13.06.59).

“Heart of Jesus, you love me even when I do not think of you, O Jesus, you live not only in the cloisters, in monasteries filled with holiness of life, in convents where groups of souls come together just to love you; you are also here with us, living our solitary lives in the mountains, weeping, suffering with us. What you expect from me is the holiness of a whole community of souls, of a whole region of hearts. If your Cross did not frighten me, I would love you infinitely, O Jesus! This fear itself is a Cross, There I begin my ascent of Calvary, to the Altar, where you immolate yourself and you await my immolation” (26.06.59).

“That is enough, O Jesus, I shall never offend you again. Pardon my fault, I am your priest, but I am a monster. I am unworthy of your pardon, but You, in this very moment, pardon me” (14.07.59).

“When my reserve of love shall have run out, You, O Jesus, love in me with your Heart and I shall be saved” (17.07.59).

“Immaculate Virgin! I ask you for the strength to love Jesus! I ask you for the strength to love the Cross, whatever the cost, because I do not want my life to be lost forever ” (04.08.59).

“O my God, make me love the Cross and that will be enough. Make me become a saint and that will be enough; even though I am the least unlikely man to hope for such a favour ... O Jesus, I wish you to be my light, my guiding beam for this journeying on earth towards heaven” (07.08.59).

Religious life

... we Religious, in our obedience, are ready to do anything we are told to do in the most natural way in the world (08.10.56).

She (Mary) is the only person who can help me to observe my Rule as her Oblate; and I must say so; For me the Rule is the only shortcut to holiness. It is the Rule which Mary Immaculate has placed in my hands as proof of her love for me and I must love it. (18.03.57).

This morning I read in *Studi Oblati (Oblate Studies)* that our Oblation is a special consecration to Mary; it is so because we promise to continue Christ's mission in the work of Redemption, against evil, against the serpent whose head she has crushed (20.03.57).

Silence - Solitude

Remaining silently with Mary (12.10.56).

I have made the Way of the Cross, but I have left Jesus in his silence. I want to be somewhere where I can be recollected, where I can find the solitude so dear to Jesus, because in that silence I can gather my thoughts and pray (24.11.56).

I want this solitude to lead me truly to recollection, to solitude and isolation from the world, and especially from my world (07.12.56).

... (the Trappists ...) deep in their solitude with the mystery of the Sacrament of Sacred Orders, of their eternal priesthood; in the silence of contemplation, with the Virgin Mary, Christ the Priest and Victim, and millions of souls crying out from every direction: Help! (23.02.57).

I leave the altar with a feeling that I am going away from Calvary ... how beautiful it would be to be buried in absolute silence, in a silence that is superhuman and almost divine! (28.02.57).

The mystery of the Annunciation teaches me to love silence ... (25.03.57).

A moment of silence with God is more precious than a thousand words of God in the midst of men (31.03.57).

... great ideas are born in silence but become a reality in words. Silence is nothing if not realized in words; in the words of men or the words of God (04.04.57).

Jesus, help us to love: Virgin Mother help us to love silently and in silence (30.07.57).

Alone, in the solitude of a cabin, either you feel the Master and taste his love or you become desperate (04.04.58).

Do not remain for too long in solitude because there is the fear of feeling too-much alone and lacking the courage to move forward again (15.07.58).

I am bored with my solitude. It is not the solitude that I had hoped for and loved. I am too lonely on my own and that makes me fearful (24.08.58).

... Christians struggle even in solitude and in the desert-like streets (07.09.58).

... how shall I carry on when I am completely and infinitely on my own? My earthly worries and anxieties will be my companions. Or, perhaps, it is the God of Consolation who should fill my solitude? I am waiting for Him. I await Him anxiously (19.01.59).

Solitude is my ruin. O my God, what a tremendous sacrifice! Are you here? Pardon me Jesus if I have not thought of you as a worthy companion (20.01.59).

Now I remain on my own, in solitude, in the company of all the fears which I try to offer to the Lord. I do not ask Him for happiness, I do not ask him for strength, I ask only that I may love him more (02.04.59).

How crowded is my bitter solitude: now it is boredom which seeks entry, at other times the silence seems populated with phantoms, again by the fear of death alone and isolated! (06.04.59).

... today I have experienced the first beautiful day, alone in solitude with God who loves me and gives me consolation.(01.12.59).

Jesus is born in our hearts in the midst of so much poverty, in the midst of so much silence and in the absolute absence of any external mechanism, Faith is the only thing to recognise Him (06.12.59).

Sorrow - Suffering

... babies are simple because they have never suffered. I ask myself if, for love of Jesus, I also could succeed in not suffering in order to acquire their candid faith: I believe that is possible because I have chosen the Cross as the source of my joy (04.10.56).

... we shall bear our cross as though we had always borne it and we shall suffer as though it were the most natural thing in the world. But Jesus will take note of it (8.10. 56).

I have read in my notes that suffering makes the apostolate fruitful: I did a rapid overview of the things that concern me to see if there was any suffering involved and to offer it at once to Christ King of Love (20.10.56).

There is suffering in the world and beyond the world, but the Love of Jesus is worthy of it. I am not necessary for souls, all that is necessary is my love and my suffering (02.11.56).

I did very well this morning during Mass... by not asking Jesus that I may suffer, but that he give me the grace to bear suffering, the strength to bear huge crosses and to carry them as He did (03.11.56).

Because in the world there is too-much pain because of the egoism of human beings, I wish to share everything with people, even my suffering, and in that way become a comforting friend for everybody (12.11.56).

I am well aware of what it means to die, I know that dying is painful, but if life springs from death then I am willing to die every day, from dawn to dark (20.11.56).

... it is only by loving that Love can be known, it is only by offering that the real face of suffering can be known (03.12.56).

Jesus suffered, not for himself but for people; I also, by making a complete gift of my little sufferings to my brothers, want to suffer not for myself but for others (04.12.56).

I shall be more humble in the face of suffering if I think of the massive quantity of sins forgiven to me, but for which punishment has still to be undergone (07.12.56).

... Good Friday. Beautiful Oh my God! Beautiful is this day on which you grant that I may suffer for love of you (27.03.58).

... prayer, suffering for souls and for all those priests who struggle, hope and believe (24.05.58).

Solitude is my ruining: Oh my God what a tremendous sacrifice! ,, Tomorrow another appointment with pain and with holiness, Jesus Crucified! Mother of Sorrows give me strength! (20.02.59).

Vocation to the Cross has no fear of pain. Having been called to follow Jesus, I do not fear his footprints; did I not promise to follow him anywhere? (30.05.59).

Trust

I made the Way of the Cross in the chapel, in the darkest darkness you can imagine; there was only the little flame of the Blessed Sacrament and my little quota of faith and love to lighten the darkness (18.11.56).

I wish to have my faith formed firmly and solidly, otherwise, I shall not be able to be a Martyr; Faith and Love are indispensable (01.02.57).

I am doing a meditation on the Madonna: all too late have I begun to realize that we should meditate on Mary day and night; I am convinced that she loves me in a special way; that she has chosen me not only for the priesthood but for holiness (18.03.57).

I realize that in order to love it is necessary to have great faith, and to believe it is necessary to have great Love (08.04.57).

My night has only one flame: Faith. I still love to believe (14.06.57).

I have so much faith in God who guides my footsteps and at times makes me understand the gentleness of the situations in which He places me (22.12.57).

Jesus wishes that we believe only in Him: he wants us to believe that the Mass is not merely a sacred rite, a liturgical function, but a Sacrifice, His Sacrifice which alone can save the world (06.01.58).

Why not give infinite thanks for the special love of God for me; He has given me the Faith, He has given me knowledge of his Church? (08.03.58).

... I believe in Christ and in his love; ... Belief in Jesus and in all that the Church teaches me is the one joy of my day. And I believe at every moment of it. (24.05.58).

Will of God

If I do not do the will of God, if I do not live the Eucharist which is the sacrament of suffering borne for God's will, if I do not nourish myself as Jesus did on the will of the Father, the Eucharistic bread will be of little benefit to me (02.11.56).

I understand more and more that perfection lies in doing God's will; therefore, in saying my Rosary the ten Ave Maria are based on those very simple words of the Our Father, *Fiat voluntas tua* (thy will be done) (16.11.56).

Jesus and Mary observe even what are useless regulations, because they love; their love is great and therefore it is important in their eyes, as long as it is the will of the Father (11.01.57).

It is great and sublime thing to accept the will of God, because it means accepting God (25.03.57).

"I am no more than a poor slave in your eyes, O Jesus, do with me what you will. Even the good that I do is all your doing, my loving can only belong to you. Even the least expression of your will, indicated to me in the Rule, should be of the greatest interest to me as the one important thing in the world at that moment in time. Nothing should exist except what is your will (05.06.57).

The Apostles performed miracles, but what is there to prevent even us renewing the miracle of your Love to all that is harmful to us, to all which is not our will but the will of God ... (06.01.58).

Merton... he makes me have a crazy desire to become a saint, a contemplative saint at that. I believe that by doing the will of God at all times, I could be so (26.04.58).

The Day of priestly sanctity ... This is the day and the hour to begin once again to try to be holy and fervent. This indeed ... is something more than a resolution; it is so much the will of God that it cannot be abandoned light-heartedly (04.09.58).

I adore God's will even, and especially, when it goes beyond the range of our miserly outlook (29.10.58).

God's will is always important even when I find it unpleasant (06.03.58).