

“The Most Beautiful of Adventures!”

Dear Friend,

In the last school year which has just ended, there was a boy in one of Mathilda’s classes, with whom no one talked. His face was marred by severe acne, his trousers were not really in style, and, unfortunately, he didn’t always smell very good. In fact, there was nothing very appealing about him. One day, for a group project, Mathilda, who was striving to be good and who had noticed that no one was including him in their group, suggested that he join hers, which he immediately accepted. He would even do his share in bringing their common project to a successful completion. Mathilda had done this because she had resolved to act towards others as she would like them to act towards her. Afterwards, she would sometimes try to include him in conversations whenever she could. More than that, when she talked, she looked at him just as she looked at the others, because when we are ignored and no one looks at us or talks to us, this always hurts. Admittedly though, in her heart, this always exacted an effort from her, for this boy was not really her type.

On another occasion, she met him by chance in a public place where she was with other friends. He talked with her for a few minutes, quite naturally, and she felt rising within her a sense of embarrassment: what would the others think? However, Mathilda courageously cast aside those negative feelings because she was trying to open her heart to all, without exception, by doing them good in whatever way she could. That, besides, is what she explained to a girlfriend who had noticed her attitude towards this boy and asked her why she was talking to him.

You see, it is through actions like those that, little by little, we learn to practise love and charity. In order to do so, we must open our hearts to others, be able to put ourselves in their shoes, so as to discern what can bring happiness or, on the contrary, what can be hurtful. Do you remember that wonderful thought from Mother Teresa

who said that “by learning to love, we learn to be saints”?

Sanctifying ourselves through the practice of charity ought to be a constant aim in our lives. To help us in this, we should ask ourselves often: “Would Love living in me say these words? Would He act as I am about to act? Is it because of what I have done, because of my words or actions that someone is suffering or hurting in his heart?” When we ask ourselves such questions, it is then easier to correct our thinking or our attitude. Remember that the more an act of love requires an effort or causes us trouble or inconvenience, the more value it has.

You know, people who have let themselves be sanctified become role models, examples of charity, generosity, kindness, examples of all that is wonderful, good and grand in man. They are persons who, in their own way, have made the world a better place, more livable, more peaceful, because they had the Love of God in their hearts and they let themselves be guided by Him. In our small measure, let us imitate them in their virtues. Their lives show us that we too can develop all the good that is in us to its full potential.

Therefore, you must cause all the love you are capable of giving to increase in you, whether you are at home, at school, in all circumstances, and especially towards God. Thus, in the depths of your heart, look for a simple way of being good, of making others happy, of loving a little more and a little better. A smile, a service rendered, silencing an unpleasant retort rising on your lips, replying gently even if, inside, you are irritated or edgy, praying for someone who has hurt you...

Pope John Paul II said: “The path to holiness is the most beautiful of adventures!” (Homily, September 19, 1984, *Servants of Jesus-Mary, Gatineau-Hull*) We too believe this! Go, and throw yourself into the conquest of holiness. Like other young people before you, you too can make something great of your life, a beautiful success story!

The Daughters of Mary