

*Trust in God and the Recourse to Mary:  
A Superior Force!*

Dear Friend,

In Mathilda's family, there is a tradition. In the afternoon on New Year's Day, each child receives a basket in which there are a few useful things and some interesting and fun surprises: toiletries, a pair of stockings, hair elastics, candies and chocolate, slippers, a book etc. Once again this year, her mother, always attentive to the needs and tastes of each one, succeeded in making everyone happy.

In her surprises, Mathilda particularly likes a little notebook she received. This was a perfect choice. It even has a lock and key with which to close it. When her aunt came to visit them later in the day, she hastened to show it to her. Her aunt then asked her what she would write in it, suggesting that she could start keeping a diary in which she could jot down her joys, her sorrows, what she had done or discovered that was interesting, her thoughts and her reflections.

It is true that, in the last while, Mathilda has often felt alone. She has friends at school, but their activities and interests are so different from what she sees at home. And, precisely at home, it seems to her that there are so many restrictions and such strictness. Besides, she does not always easily accept what her parents request of her. Fashion? Her parents do not allow her to wear just anything she wants. The screens? There is a daily limit she must respect. Outings? It all depends where, with whom and if there will be

supervision. And then, there is Mass which she attends as often as possible - and that's her choice -, but she really seems to be the only one in her group to have a life of faith, even if there is a girl in one of her classes who, out of the blue, recently started to read the Bible to see what she might find in it. At school, Mathilda has the impression of being so very different from the others and even uninteresting, because she finds it really hard to fit in during certain conversations, especially when the topics are all the amorous and sexual adventures being experienced by those around her, all that is exchanged on social media, certain musical groups that are the in-thing, and so many other subjects. Fortunately, she has Sophie whom she occasionally gets to see on weekends.

And you, do you also have the impression at times that it is hard to be an adolescent and a Daughter of Mary besides, amid all the different kinds of solicitations, the confusion and all the opposing thoughts coming at you for all directions? We understand the struggles you are subjected to in this time of your life in a social context that is particularly complicated and worrying. This is the hour of the battle in you when the angel of evil would like to lead you to disregard the moral and religious teaching you receive, in order to urge you to follow the current, the easy path, where God's laws are no longer respected. Yes, you are different from the others because you are a Daughter of the Immaculate, a title that is unequalled anywhere. The Immaculate has loved you and placed a seal upon your soul. You belong to her, but to this great love She has for you, there also corresponds a calling which is demanding. In order to correspond to it, you must pray and fight well, by becoming always stronger

in making the right choices.

One day, Marie-Paule wrote to a young adolescent girl who had sent her a letter: "It is through difficulties that the character is formed and the will is strengthened; but your efforts must, in the first place, rely upon a superior force: trust in God and the recourse to Mary who promised to assist all those who consecrate themselves to Her." (*Review L'Armée de Marie*, vol. IV, p. 195)

Alone with her thoughts, in the silence of her room, in the evening of this first day of the New Year, Mathilda opened her diary and wrote: "Dear Marie-Paule, I know that I am your daughter and that you love me. I also believe that you hear my prayer. I entrust to you all my days as an adolescent, my joys, my sorrows, my annoyances, my difficulties. Give me the courage and the strength to be good. Help me to be the Daughter of Mary you want me to be. I want everything you want. I love you and I will often write to you again because in this way I have the impression of drawing closer to you, and this does me good."

To you, dear friend, we wish a Happy New Year lived under our Mother's loving gaze. Have courage and confidence! She is with you!

The Daughters of Mary