



## THE QUICKEST PATH

Mary's request at the wedding feast of Cana reminds us that we do not have to resort to explanations when we ask God for things. We need not go into details. Sometimes a simple statement of fact will do. 'They have no wine,' Mary says (Jn.2/3). Having stated that, she leaves everything else in Jesus' hands. Then she turned to the servers and said 'Do whatever He tells you'.

This is the very heart of obedience. "**Obedience contains all virtues**" Mother Eliswa. We have many maxims of Mother Eliswa in which she highlights the importance of 'Obedience' for consecrated persons. "The virtue of obedience is the life, strength, and salvation of our soul". "A community without obedience will become like hell". If obedience is her favorite virtues certainly she has attuned her life accordingly and expects her daughters to practice the same.

On June 29<sup>th</sup> 1867 Fr. Leopold OCD said about humility and obedience in this manner, "Be humble, humiliate yourself and consider yourself as mud and dust. Carefully obey your superior, try to see Jesus in her because she is given to you in His place".

On 14<sup>th</sup> September 1874, the feast of the exaltation of the cross, he reminds sisters saying, "*My Children, Obedience is the identity of the daughters of St. Teresa*". Once a nun asked the superior where she was to sit. The superior simply told her to sit in the well. Immediately without any second thought she ran to the well. Fortunately others saw her and stopped her from jumping in the well.

For us consecrated persons obedience is not just virtue but one of the Vows - Evangelical Council along with poverty and chastity. Therefore Obedience is a response to the Lord's words "If you love me, you will keep my commandments" Jn.14/15. The vow is a way to imitate Jesus Christ, who came to do the will of his Father. It is considered a liberating dependence, reflecting the harmony of the Trinity. The vow of obedience is understood as a grace from God and a gift that helps individuals follow Christ more closely. It is a means of heeding God's call and is seen as integral to the history of salvation.

St. Teresa of Avila viewed obedience as *the quickest path to the highest perfection*, a way to align one's will with God's will and find true freedom. She taught that obedience is a key expression of love for God. She understood that "obedience gives strength," helping the soul accomplishes the tasks that may seem impossible and leading to the liberty of spirit that the perfection of soul requires.

Mother Eliswa, a true daughter of Holy Mother St. Teresa determined to practice obedience in smallest detail. "A sister to become holy has to choose the golden paths of virtues and cling to it; in short, they have to be diligent in seeking the things which pleases God".

- Mother Eliswa was obedient to her parents;
- She was obedient to the traditions of her time, that's why she agreed to the proposal for marriage;
- She was obedient to the voice of God and refused the proposal for second marriage;
- She was obedient to the promptings of the Holy Spirit and shared the stirring of her heart;
- She was obedient to her Spiritual director and confessors;
- She was obedient to the Church authority in all her deliberation as the foundress of the Congregation;
- She was obedient to her superiors and did all the entrusted duties very well;
- She was obedient to the signs of the time to take up the ministry of women empowerment.

We are her daughters. Let our preparation for Mother Eliswa's beatification make us obedient in spirit and faith. Amen!

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