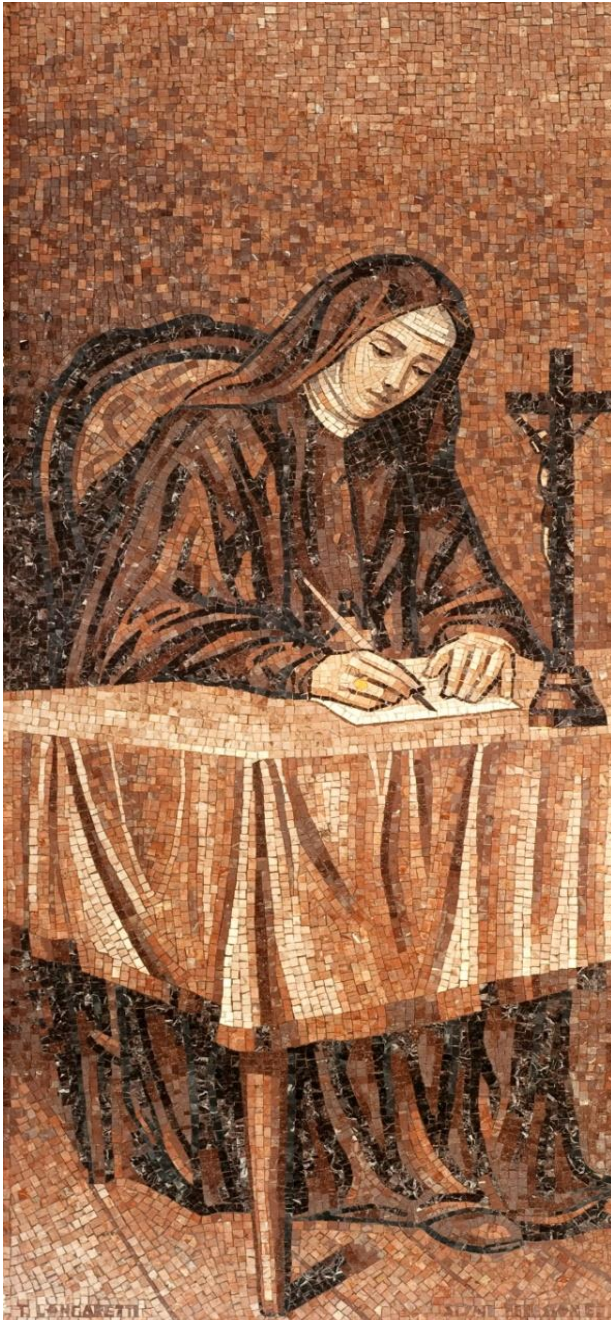


FROM “THE WRITINGS” OF SAINT GELTRUDE COMENSOLI

“In Mother Comensoli's words and writings, we can hear the echoes of a mentality now distant, with accents and emphases that we struggle to decode and appreciate. [...]The religious language, the theological categories, and the spiritual sensibility are expressions that in every age attempt to say the eternal Mystery of God. Apart from the terms used, Mother Gertrude managed to grasp some substantial features of the spiritual discourse and took hold of some essential issues of the Christian faith. One of her wonderful “lessons” of Christian life, the first point concerns Jesus Christ. She considers it to be the sole “centre” of all existence, the ‘wisdom’ that gives taste to everything, the beginning and end of every effort, the joy and fullness of life, the unit of measure for evaluating everything, every event, every person.

(Don Ezio Bolis – “Gesù, amarti e farti amare”)

My Jesus placed before my eyes all the most precious testimonies of His love. After receiving Holy



Trento Longaretti: Saint Geltrude Comensoli

Communion (which I used to receive early in the morning to have time to stay in meditation a long time), I cannot express what passed between Jesus and me. He would say to me, “You see my daughter - come and hold close to my heart - you can see my love - how great is my goodness...” And I could see him in my heart with the light of faith more than if I had seen him personally. Even in the midst of the day's chores, I would feel His adorable presence and sometimes all activity of the mind would cease and I would feel myself in Him, absorbed in Him, but in a way, that was neither material nor imaginary.

(Short autobiography)

Impossible to explain those joys because they are not of the world, as well as finding words to explain their greatness and ways to try to adore Him, because we lose sight of everything and we seem to be in another world. The peace and calm, the inner silence, the annihilation I felt before the great Majesty of God, then made me insensitive to everything.

(Short autobiography)

It is a sweet comfort to hear about souls committed to honouring and loving Jesus; oh, if only everyone knew the great good that Adoration is!

É pur dolce conforto il sentire delle anime che si impegnano a far onorare ed amare Gesù; oh, se tutti conoscessero il gran bene che è l'Adorazione!

(Letters)

In the Institute, the three vows of poverty, chastity and obedience and that of honouring Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament are taken at the Profession. Therefore, every sister is obliged to do her Hour of Adoration.

(Letters)

In the Most Blessed Sacrament then...you will find an example who is superior to all the saints. How does He live in the presence of His Divine Father? What silence, what concealment, what continuous adoration! Anchor yourself in Him and try hard to copy His life, His virtues. What a sublime example! He calls you to great holiness, He gives you the means, He will also give you what you need. Live, therefore, in God, of God, with God, for God. Confidence and courage. (Letters)

I can see in you a vegetable garden that, well cultivated and worked, can bear a great deal of fruit. Therefore, who has to work it? Rosina with Jesus; alone you would do nothing, but united with Him, oh, what a good and expert gardener you will become. With Jesus everything is possible, when, however, mind you, you let Him be your master, and you refuse Him nothing of what He commands you to do, [...] and then abandon yourself in His bosom with the simplicity and confidence of a child, so that He disposes of you at every moment according to His divine good will. Moreover, you should know that Jesus goes ahead, you only have to follow him and he will never let you be without his grace; you then must preserve it with great zeal. He will teach you what to ask and will give you the grace to practice what you ask of Him. Rosina, it is an exchange between Jesus and you; the more you give Him the more you receive. (Letters)

I feel a great need for silence and solitude, woe is to me if I always behave like this! The further I go the better and better I understand the grace the Lord gives me by calling me to the religious life. (Letters)


He who called you can give you everything. Be faithful to him and let him do what he wants. Love and trust; you only try to observe your Rule, this He prefers to everything else and through this way, He wishes to lead you to the mountain of Holiness. [...] Present yourself always sweet, patient, affable and silent, collected, absorbed in God alone in your work during the day. (Exhortations and advice)

Your poor mother wishes you many things. True Happiness = precisely that happiness which can only be found by loving God = by forgetting ourselves. The peace that you enjoy when the soul finds no other pleasure than in doing God's will. The peace you enjoy when you willingly suffer for God. May Jesus make you a great saint. (Exhortations and advice)

So you have to say every day, Jesus in my heart, in my thoughts. Jesus in my eyes; Jesus in my tongue; Jesus in my hands; Jesus in my feet = Jesus in all my actions, Jesus in my ways. In so doing, He will transform you in Him. (Exhortations and advice)

I only want You: You alone in my thoughts, You alone in my words, You alone in my deeds ... You only as a reward. Detach me from myself and from all that is not You. The peace of the soul..., I only feel it sometimes, it is an extraordinarily great grace and yet I want to work hard to obtain it, through constant fidelity to grace, unlimited correspondence to inspirations both great and small. (Intimate notes)

I will keep my heart always turned to the Altar where my lover Jesus dwells. Tired, oppressed, afflicted or desolate, there will be my resting place, in order to be seen only by my Jesus. (Intimate notes)



My Jesus help me so that whatever happens to me, be it sweet or bitter, I will always accept it as a means that You send (not that arrives by chance, which is a result of Ignorance), but that comes to me directly from You, disposed for my sanctification... (Intimate notes)