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## II.

### MONTHLY DAYS OF RECOLLECTION

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*4 December 1825*

IN THIS MONTH'S DAY OF RECOLLECTION I MAKE  
THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS

To carry out with the utmost care my practices of piety and devotion; for every failure to do so, I will take the Discipline for the space of a *Hail Mary*. I will live and behave in the manner that a saintly person would behave in my life-situation.

Dear Jesus, I earnestly implore your help to carry out these resolutions.

Most beloved Mummy Mary, I place my trust in you; help me, for charity's sake; make me a saint.

*9 April 1826*

DAY OF RECOLLECTION

On this day I resolve to carry out most faithfully my usual devotions. Every evening I will examine myself on this point, and for every failure to do so, I will trace a cross with my tongue on the floor. This month I will not mention Confessors at all.

Jesus my love, help me, I beg you. Most gentle Mummy Mary, help me in everything. Most loveable St Aloysius, and my Guardian Angel, faithfully correct me, always.

*Lovere, 1 January 1827*

My God, this New Year I want to be quite different from what I was in the past. I beg you to forgive me for being ungrateful so many times. I thank you for so many graces you have granted me. I promise you: this year, and especially this month, I want to live in the way I would live if I were certain that I had to die that very day. Moreover, I will seek all the ways and means to practise humility; I will have a lowly idea of myself; I will shun praise and seek humiliation. I resolve to remain in God's presence as much as possible, keeping up a familiar conversation with Him.

My God, help me, I beg of you; let me die a thousand times rather than commit a single deliberate sin.

Mary most Holy, I commend myself to your care. All Saints of Heaven, pray for me.

*7 February 1827*

DAY OF RECOLLECTION CONDUCTED BY D. A. B<sup>1</sup>

My God, this month I promise you to be diligent in observing all my devotional practices, to be fervent and most regular in prayer, to seek ways of practising humility and to have a right intention in all my actions, by doing everything purely for your sake. By your grace I hope I will be faithful, and for that reason I commend myself to you.

Mary most Holy, don't leave me alone. St Aloysius, my Guardian Angel and all Saints of Heaven, pray much for me.

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<sup>1</sup> Abbreviation for "*Don Angelo Bosio*".

## DAY OF RECOLLECTION - RESOLUTIONS

30 October 1830

My gentle Jesus, relying on your powerful help, I resolve, this month:

1. To consider each day as the last day of my life, and so to spend it in a saintly way as if I were sure it would be the last; three times a day to remind myself of this, and of the resolutions as well.

2. In order to acquire inner recollection and real union with Jesus Christ, to strive by every means, this month, to 'die' to all *visible* things, and so ...

I will die to all *visible* things through my eyes: by resolving to look only at: The Crucified Lord, Mary, the Saints, Heaven, the Sacred Monstrance where the Blessed Sacrament is exposed, and things I need to look at for some precise reason; for the rest, I will keep my eyes down, never gazing at men, women, decorations, ornaments or paintings, imposing buildings, curiosities and ordinary things, but reserving my eyes only for things related to the glory of God, to needs of my neighbour and other necessary things; for everything else, I will keep them as if I did not have them.

I will die to all *visible* things through my tongue, fixing a rule for myself not to speak except of spiritual and holy things or for some precise need; for the rest: useless, empty and vain talk, talk about worldly things, passing things, etc. will be banished from my tongue.

I will die to all *visible* things through my ears, by refusing to listen to anything that is not related to the glory of God or the good of my neighbour, or of some real need.

I will die to all *visible* things through my memory, by emptying it and depriving it of all useless, distracting thoughts, thoughts about worldly things, persons or temporal goods, desires of being appreciated, held in esteem, etc.

I will die to all *visible* things through my intellect, by denying myself the craving to know of, hear about, or understand needless things, useless knowledge, worldly fashions, affected manners ...

I will die to all *visible* things through my will, by having no wish to 'appear' in the public eye, to have a good name, or to be rich, never to complain of setbacks nor be sorry for being set aside, to have no wish to outshine others.

Lastly, to die to all *visible* things I must decide to live in the world as if there were no-one else in it except God and myself: to speak, act, keep silent, move, etc. for God's sake alone and for his glory. To accept whatever happens from God's hands, and in everything to fix my eyes on Him alone. Never to think about myself or my own interests, but only about God and his glory.



My good Jesus, make me understand what you want from me, and make me do it, I beg of you. I commend myself to you. I place my trust in you.

Dear Mary, my gentle Mummy, have pity on me; help me and come to my assistance.

Beloved St Aloysius, keep praying for me. Dear Guardian Angel, all you Saints of Heaven, *pray for me, a sinner*<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Original in Latin “*Orate pro me peccatrice*”.

HAIL, JESUS, JESUS, JESUS, FOR EVER AND EVER

ON RECOLLECTION DAY DONE IN THE SODALITY

*20 January 1831*

Jesus my love, what resolution shall I make to meet with your approval and respond to your sweet invitations? ... Do I have to take on myself heavier obligations? I fear I may be deceiving myself, seeing that I am neglecting even the promises I have already made in the past ... I will therefore just renew and reaffirm what I vowed previously, striving to be much more faithful. Bortolamea, remember that you must belong totally to your neighbour and still more truly, wholly belong to God.

You will be true to yourself through holy humility. Keep always in mind your misery, your ingratitude, your countless sins. Keep in mind that if God were to stop sustaining you by a constant miracle, you would be the greatest sinner. Keep ever in mind that of yourself you have nothing but evil, that you are nothing, that you are unworthy of all that is good, and even when God would be delighted to work miracles in you, you would not stop being the greatest sinner. And so, seek to be hidden, cherish humiliations, crave to be put aside,

scorned, forgotten, and even hated and slandered. Let your whole glory consist in loving and serving Jesus.

You will belong totally to your neighbour through charity. For Jesus' sake, seek all ways to do good to so many girls in need. Inscribe them on your heart; forget none of them. Keep closest to your heart those who are in the greatest need, the most neglected by others, very poor, orphaned or left to themselves. Never get tired of praying for them, avail yourself of every opportunity to win them over; love them, caress them, do all you can to make them pleasing to Jesus. In every manner do deeds of charity, both corporal and spiritual, but do everything with the right intention, for Jesus' sake, that in all things he may be glorified.

You will then belong totally to God, through a most ardent love for Him. Keep in mind the close bond you have with him. You are God's possession; you don't have as much as a sigh that is not His, and if you behave differently, you are a thief. Do everything gladly for his sake. Be faithful to Him in little things. Think of Him all the time. Thank him in times of affliction. Have a deep trust in Him. Bortolamea, you don't belong to yourself any more, you belong totally to Jesus. Every tiny defect will greatly wrong His gracious Heart. For God's sake, do not displease him.

Dear Jesus, do of me what is most pleasing to you. I do not rely on myself, but I do greatly rely on you. I have no power; all power is yours. I have greatly offended you, and yet you love me still. I also wish to return love for love. Give me your Heart, and with it I will love you sufficiently.

Mary, my dear Mummy, keep me in mind, look after me.  
Tell Jesus to give me his holy love; ask him to save me.

Dear St Aloysius, be not unmindful of your unworthy devotee. Pray that Jesus and Mary may make me wholly theirs.

All you Saints of Heaven, pray to Jesus for me.

*31 January 1831*

RECOLLECTION DAY

Dear Jesus, relying on your assistance I promise you that this month I will do my best to be very gentle with everyone, more especially with my girls.

Bortolomea, remember that Jesus loves you very dearly and that you are duty bound to love him. Whatever he sends you: loving care or neglect, joy or affliction, calm and quiet or anxiety and fear, you must love him and serve him in the same way because he deserves to be loved and served faithfully for his own sake. Recall frequently to mind that you will find peace and refreshment only when you become entirely his, really and truly of Jesus alone. Let your honour and joy consist only in loving him and suffering for his sake. Let it be your firm belief that you will draw closer to Jesus in the measure that you will be detached from creatures and from yourself. Know that it is in constantly practising self-denial and going against your liking that real happiness is to be found. Bortolomea, remember that you are the Bride of Jesus; remember the numberless graces he has granted you; try, then, at least as much as you can, to return love for love.

My God, I love you, I love you, I love you; but since I love you too little, I wish to love you much.

Mary, my dear Mummy, I commend myself to you. You have to save me; I rely on you.

Dear St Aloysius, do not get tired of praying hard for me.

All you Saints of Heaven, dear Guardian Angel, *pray for me, a sinner*<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Original in Latin “*Orate pro me peccatrice*”.

*(12 May)*<sup>1</sup>

On this solemn Recollection day, 12 May, conducted by D.G.B., I resolve to fulfil all my duties in every detail, to be fervent and persevering and to have in everything the sole aim of giving glory to God.

Dear Jesus, keep my heart steady, grant me the grace to love and serve you.

My most sweet Mummy Mary, I place myself in your keeping.

St Aloysius, my Guardian Angel, St Philip Neri, pray much for me.

Hail Jesus and Mary

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<sup>1</sup> On this Recollection day and in the following ones the year is not given; in the last one the day is also omitted.

*11 June*

RECOLLECTION DAY

For this month I resolve to cultivate with great care the presence of God: I will do my very best not to be unmindful of it even a single minute. Moreover, in all my actions I will have the sole aim of giving glory to God.

My dear Jesus, graciously accept my resolutions and help me to carry them out.

Mary Most Holy, I place them in your noble Heart that they may be effective.

My Guardian Angel, St Aloysius, St Teresa and all you Saints of Heaven, pray much for me.



*27 July*

RECOLLECTION DAY

Good Jesus, your sweet appeals are like sharp spurs to my hard heart; you want me to be totally yours; so here I am wholly yours, and to please you I resolve this month ...

1. Never to indulge in any useless thought; I will spend all the free moments in sweet conversation with you; I will kiss your holy Wounds as a penance, every time that I fail in this respect.

2. In my desire to honour you and please you in all my actions, however small, and in order that you may be more delighted with them, I resolve to do everything with gladness, without ever complaining of anything or showing that I am tired.

3. To do everything with a humble heart, and to use every means to come to know my own sinfulness.

My dear Jesus, I beg you, grant that the whole of this month may be filled with saintly deeds, fit for Heaven.

Mary, my dear Mummy, for charity's sake help me become a saint.

St Aloysius, my Guardian Angel, all you Saints of Heaven, pray much for me. Amen.

*30 November*

RECOLLECTION DAY

On this day of recollection I resolve, for this month never to indulge in any pleasure, but in all things seek only the glory of God, the salvation of my neighbour and the good of my soul.

For charity's sake, help me, good Jesus.

Most Holy Mary, you are a dear Mother to me; treat me as such.

St Aloysius, my Guardian Angel, all you Saints of Heaven. Pray to Jesus for me.

## RECOLLECTION DAY - NOVEMBER

Jesus most gentle, I thank you for all your tender care for me this last month; I beg you to forgive the many times I have been ungrateful to you. In my desire to please you, I resolve that during this coming month I will devote myself totally to charity towards my neighbour. Whatever you have given me: life, eyes, hands, feet, capacities and everything else, I will use it all for the benefit of my brethren.

I will have especially in mind: sinners, the sick, the poor, the illiterate and the youth. I will never let a day pass by without making at least 5 acts of charity to meet spiritual or material needs. Gentle Jesus, teach me yourself how to find ways of doing good to my neighbour; on my part I promise I will not spare myself, day or night, when it is a question of bringing relief to someone. I would be very happy if at the cost of much trouble I can have the good fortune to prevent even just one venial sin.

Mary most Holy, my gentle Mummy, I commend myself to your care.

My Guardian Angel, St Aloysius, Advocate and Patron Saints, pray for me.

