

Quotations from Sister Maria Aloysia Wolbring

Foundress of the Coesfeld Sisters of Notre Dame

Spirituality

God Alone

“... if we really endeavor to belong to the dear God alone . . .then death will not find us unprepared. . .”

Sister Mary Aloysia to her great-uncle, Letter I, Jan. 8, 1858

Good intention

“.. .the most important in all our work is the uniting of all our actions with the works of the divine Savior. Thus we make gold out of stones . . .”

Sister Maria Aloysia to Hendrina Honsel, Letter III, July 13, 1881

“.. .of what good is all our work if prayer does not bring down God’s blessing upon it!”

Sister Maria Aloysia to Hendrina Honsel, Letter III, July 13, 1881

Providence

“.. . the dear God knows everything the best; what he does is well done!”

Sister Maria Aloysia to Hendrina and Joseph Honsel, Letter IV, Autumn, 1881

“.. . so far the dear God has always taken care and will certainly continue to do so.”

Sister Maria Aloysia to Hendrina and Joseph Honsel, Letter VI, October 25, 1886

“May the dear God . . . bless you again for the New Year; may he keep you healthy and vigorous and cheerful so that you can fulfill all your duties with a happy heart.”

Sister Maria Aloysia to Hendrina and Joseph Honsel, Letter VII December 8, 1887

The Cross

“The dear God has not forgotten us this year; his cross, the mark of his love, has been our portion in these last months.”

Sister Maria Aloysia to Hendrina and Joseph Honsel, Letter VII, November 28, 1888

Holy Eucharist/Sacred Heart

“Really the chapel is very poor; . . .but we are happy anyway to have the Lord with us.”

Sister Maria Aloysia to Hendrina Honsel, Letter III, July 13, 1881

Ministry in children's' homes; to poor children

“For food, clothing and so on the dear God must often provide, for we have comparatively many children who can pay nothing . . . we accept the little ones so much more lovingly the poorer and more abandoned they are.” *(this is in reference to Mt. St. Mary's)*

Sister Maria Aloysia to Hendrina and Joseph Honsel, Letter VI, October 25, 1886

“Our children give us real joy; they are so easily satisfied: a little apple, some cake, a little piece of candy, without which the American believes he cannot live, makes them happy.”

Sister Maria Aloysia to Hendrina and Joseph Honsel, Letter VII, December 8, 1887

Ministry: care for the aged and infirm

“...we . . . attend to four aged people whose care we have undertaken: one is a ninety-two-year-old man who occasionally confuses morning and evening . . . We have an eighty-year-old woman who is permanently bedfast, and another woman we call our ‘praying mamma’ because the whole day... she is praying almost constantly.”

Sister Maria Aloysia to Hendrina Honsel (about Delphos), Letter III, July 13, 1881

Catechesis

“Her religious instructions meant more to us than the sermons in church. She spoke from the deepest conviction, and tried to direct our hearts to God alone. Best of all, she did not require too much piety of us. ‘Children,’ she used to say, ‘always follow the golden middle way -- not too little, not too much.’ We loved her as a mother.”

Recollections of Sister Maria Aloysia from one of her students in Udem, *Soli Deo*, p. 55

Missions and mission spirit

“I have always been greatly interested in the missions; we sisters are also missionaries here . . .”

Sister Maria Aloysia to Hendrina and Joseph Honsel, Letter VI, October 25, 1886