

FR. JOHN A. HARDON, S.J.

SPIRITUAL CONVERSATION

AND LETTER WRITING

We are to cultivate the art of spiritual conversation. We are forever talking to other people and in their absence what do we do, we talk to ourselves. So what is spiritual conversation? It is conversation with other people indeed. What about the things of God? About things that are sacred about our faith? About our own religious experience? About the things that pertain to our Lord, to our Lady, the saints, the Church, the Holy Eucharist, prayer, acts of piety, stories that elate to what is holy. I believe most people's conversation most of the time is in technical language is profane conversation about the things of this world. I hope you agree. Hours on end, lost in animated conversation, about what? Except about the one Being on whom everything else depends.

Some practical suggestions. There is such a thing as being prepared for conversation. You don't just walk into a conversation. Now of course, we don't come with a book or two under your arm and a pad and notes, let's see here on page seven. There's also such a thing as cultivating the art of mastering a conversation. And the one who masters a conversation is not believe me the one that does most of the talking. A judicious question. A short comment. But we are talking about spiritual conversation. This is an art and some people never learn it. Of course, of course, from the depths of the heart as Christ tells us, the mouth speaks. We are going to be only as adept in spiritual conversation as you are interiorally united with God.

Religious letter writing can be one of the most effective channels of grace. A single letter, which we write, can change another person's life. St. Ignatius, he would sometimes rewrite a letter seven times to make sure he was saying exactly what he thought the soul to whom he was writing needed.

Not all people have the same freedom to write letters. Not everyone has the same facility. But everyone who believes in Christ and writes letters should

be aware of the power of the written word to bring souls closer to the Savior and literally work miracles of grace in people's lives. It does not really matter how much or how many letters are written and surely it does not matter on how long they are. What is important is that what we write will breathe the spirit of piety. That we write about the things of God. But I'm not used to it. Start getting used to it. And that our correspondence is consciously intended to bring those to whom we write closer to Jesus Christ. Otherwise as St. Ignatius stated, don't write the letter. You're wasting your time and your wasting the time of the person to whom you are writing. One short comment. Make sure that your letter closes with a spiritual christian closing like, sincerely yours in Christ; sincerely in our Lord, or simply in our Lady, or in the love of the Sacred Heart, and I close my letter that way also to my Jewish friends, why not?

Christ our Lord told us that, if we profess Him before men on earth He will profess us before His heavenly father. This is both a privilege and a challenge.

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