

## Do we still believe in miracles? Marie-Thérèse-Charlotte, a woman of faith



In 1820, La Miséricorde in Bordeaux had more than two hundred boarders. Work was needed but money was short.

"Three thousand francs were owed to the main contractor for the work. Spontaneously, he trusted that the Superior would pay him in due time.

No," says the latter, "God is a good payer. Let us take three months. "

The three months passed and, on the fatal day, Thérèse de Lamourous does not even have the five sols of Thérèse of Avila. This fact does not upset her. A devotional fast is requested from the community. Then, at nine o'clock, she locks herself in the restored chapel. She thinks that she is alone. Fortunately, two directors hidden in the gallery will see and hear everything. This is what happened:

Prostrate on the pavement of the nave, the Mother immerses herself in a long adoration. Then, she lifts herself up, and, out loud, she says: - My God, it is today that you pay your three thousand francs; your honor is involved; you gave your word. Will you grant me what I asked for?

She waited, listening on the side of the parlor to see if the bell would call her. Nothing. Then she gets up, goes to the Holy Table and, this time with sobs in her voice, she resumes her prayer: - Jesus, did you hear me! I know you sometimes act deaf, like a mother who pretends not to hear her child. Well, you owe three thousand francs; I said that at eleven o'clock you would pay; you will not fail to keep your word!

She listens again. The bell is still silent. Then, she enters the sanctuary, climbs the

steps of the altar. There, her emotion is such that she must, with her left hand, squeeze her heart, which beats so strongly that it almost takes her breath away. With her right hand, she knocks on the door of the tabernacle, saying: - Forgive me, O Jesus, but it is you who force me to be bold. You said: Knock and it will be opened. If I have to stay here until tomorrow, I will keep knocking until you pay the three thousand francs. I will cry, Lord, and you will hear me!

No sooner had she completed this third summons than she heard her bell ring in the parlor. She quickly left the church, but politely took leave of the good Lord and promised to come back to say thank you.

In the parlor, she finds a stranger, who tells her about the Countess of M., whom she had met during her trip to Paris. She was dead and the visitor had come to execute one of the bequests of her will. I would be surprised," interrupted Mlle. de Lamourous, "if God did not send me, through you, the three thousand francs that I promised in his name.

Smiling, the stranger drew from his wallet three thousand-francs and handed them to the Superior. - Thank you, I knew, oh my God, that you would be faithful. - Wait, Madame, there are three more!

This time, Miss de Lamourous was a little disconcerted, then, with great spontaneity, she said: -Since it is so, from now on I will ask you, O God, only half of what I need. "

*The Apostle of Mary, no. 174, August-September 1925, p. 135-137.*