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The presence of Mary (continued)
Letter 63
Fr. Henri Caffarel
being present to God; Letters on Prayer
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Today, it is not I but a little boy named Bruno who will talk to you about mental prayer. It is a joy for me to send you a copy of the letter his mother sent me.

“Dear Father, in the *Cahier* for the month of August you wrote, ‘The Christian who wants to pray begins by kneeling close to Mary in prayer.’ This text would probably not have made such a great impression on me, had my reading not coincided with a family episode that I want to tell you about.

“Our four children had just spent a long evening with their cousins at our old summer cottage. It was very late—ten-thirty—and they were all getting sleepy. As I put them to bed, I told them, ‘Just for this evening, sit on your beds for your night prayers.’ I sat down myself, at the foot of one of the beds.

“I began the night prayer, and as I slowly recited the Lord’s Prayer, I became deeply recollected. In fact, I didn’t notice at first that the youngest, Bruno, was touched by it and got up. He came and knelt on the bed, leaning against me. He unfolded my hands, and slipped his hands into mine saying, ‘Jesus.’ I continued the prayer, deeply moved, and he knelt there motionless. The older children explained to me later on: ‘He kept looking at you real hard, and then all of a sudden he got up.’

“As it happened, I chanced to read your text ten minutes later. If I hadn’t read it, I would simply have had a tender memory of this tiny tot’s delighted discovery. But now that I have read it, my prayer in union with Mary has been greatly helped.”