

SOCIETY OF THE CHILD JESUS



Newsletter

Under the Patronage of Blesseds Francisco and Jacinta of Fatima

Volume 12, Issue 37 ~ October, 2009

Our Lord's Early Years Considerations on the Joyful Mysteries

by David Allen White, Ph.D.

The five Joyful Mysteries: First comes the Annunciation; followed by the Visitation of Our Lady to St. Elizabeth; followed by the joys of the Nativity of Our Lord in the stable in Bethlehem; the Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple; and finally, the discovery in the temple of the young Christ teaching the elders.

Notice that the definition of joy has to do with the incarnation of God Himself in this world. The greatest joys that we can know in this world have to do with the fact that God Himself took human form, came down to Earth and walked with us. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. Our Lord walked the Earth for 33 years, which means we were blessed to have Him here during that time.

But the Joyful Mysteries concentrate on the very earliest times of His life: the Annunciation, when the Archangel Gabriel announces to Mary what is going to happen; the Visitation to Elizabeth, when Mary is carrying Our Lord in Her womb and Elizabeth has John the Baptist in her womb; the Nativity, the moment of the Birth; and then the Presentation which comes shortly after the birth. The Feast of the Purification is February 2, so a set number of days after the birth of Our Lord, Mary goes and takes the Child Jesus to the temple. And at that moment St. Simeon sees Our Lord and recognizes what has happened,



**The Finding of the Child
Jesus in the Temple**

the gift that has been given.

Now this means four of the five Joyful Mysteries are about the beginning of Our Lord's life in this world. His conception in the womb of the Blessed Mother until the Presentation in the temple involve just a matter of months. At the time of the Finding in the Temple, He is a young man, He is still youthful. We can still call Him a child in many ways, which is why the elders in the temple were astonished that He had such knowledge.

We are talking about youthfulness, but I want to focus on this: The greatest joy that we can be given if we are to imitate what they contain is the joy of new life being created. It is conception in the womb: the joy of

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sharing with friends and family the coming birth; the joy of the birth of a new soul onto the Earth. And then there comes the offering up, the Presentation of that new soul in the temple to God Himself, because God is the source of that life.

In Our Blessed Mother's story, God *is* that life being offered by the Blessed Mother. The Second Person of the Holy Trinity is being presented to the First Person of the Holy Trinity. It is remarkable. Extraordinary. But in human terms, every child needs to be presented to God as a recognition that he is a gift of God.

Now what is heartbreaking about our age is not just its hatred of life, but its hatred of life in the womb, of children. We live in a world that sees new life created in the womb as a burden, a problem, a sorrow that in many cases needs to be eliminated. The modern world sees that extraordinary gift as a curse. How did this happen? Through demonic influences. But the devil

works subtly and does not immediately overturn everything.

The devil's prime purpose is to turn God's order upside down. If God says day is day and night is night, the devil will make day, night and night, day. We see that everywhere now. Through electricity, we have false light. People can stay up all night and sleep all day. We can have light whenever we want.

The devil turns everything upside down, which is why the sign of the devil, for much of human history, has been an upside-down man. God created man with his intelligence ruling over his emotions, and both ruling over his passions. There is an order. It's necessary. God created us this way. The devil has inverted all that. People are now ruled by their passions. Everything in the world is now designed to incite and let loose those lower passions so they control the emotions, and the intelligence is given last place, if it has any place at all. †

- Excerpt from speech given by Dr. White at Fatima Center's Rosary Conference in Cleveland, Ohio, June 6-7, 2009.

Everyone Deserves Your Courtesy

By Father Lawrence Lovasik



"Love one another with fraternal charity, anticipating one another with honor." - St. Paul (Romans 12:10)

Love broadens the laws of courtesy. Honor should be paid not only to those above us, not only to our equals, but to "one another," as St. Paul says. No one should be excluded from the universal law of honoring one another.

Love should also deepen and spiritualize courtesy. Courtesy is supernaturalized when you remember that Christ will consider all that you have done to others as having been done to Him. A Christian sees in every man much more than just a man; he sees in him a child of God, a brother of Christ, and, in a sense, even God Himself.

St. Paul's words – "Love one another with fraternal charity, anticipating one another with honor" – have a deeper, richer meaning than mere politeness. Respect is more than politeness. Respect reminds us of the tender, loving reverence of a child, of a disciple, or of an angel.

Let your politeness be the politeness of the heart. There is no outward token of politeness without some deep moral foundation. Love will breathe into even purely formal politeness respect, good will, and that all-embracing kindness which does not wait to be greeted, but is first with its greeting.

Courtesy is the kindness of the heart, manifested in our dealing with our fellowmen. Genuine courtesy is merely the method of being a gentleman or a gentlewoman. Cardinal Newman says, "A gentleman is one who never inflicts pain."

A gentleman has his eyes on all those present; he is tender toward the bashful, gentle toward the distant, and merciful toward the absent. He guards against introducing any topics that may irritate or wound; he is seldom wearisome. He makes light of favors that he confers. He never speaks of himself, except when compelled to do so, never defends himself by heated retort, has no liking for slander or gossip, is careful not to impute wrong motives to those who interfere with him, interprets everything for the best, if he can, and, if he cannot, is silent.

A gentleman is never mean or little in his disputes, never takes unfair advantage, never mistakes

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personalities or sharp sayings for arguments, and never insinuates evil that he dare not say out loud. He observes the maxim that we should ever conduct ourselves toward an enemy as if he were one day to be our friend.

No matter on how intimate a footing you stand with someone, that intimacy should never destroy courtesy. You cannot possibly live in constant daily contact with others without noticing their faults and selfishness. Your own faults, like theirs, are bound to come to the surface.

There is one means that — perhaps more than any other — can smooth your relations with others and make them not only bearable, but, to a certain extent, pleasant, and that means is the observance of the courtesies of life — little acts of kindness and politeness.

It may easily happen that you are more polite and courteous to people outside your home or people you

never expect to meet again, than to those who are members of your family or whose friendship is really worth cultivating. You may sometimes be neglectful of those whom you love, but courteous toward those for whom you care little. Consider the woman who, after scolding and scowling at her children, runs to the door when company is announced, but first smoothes her ruffled temper and wreathes her face in smiles.

If you make it a point in your dealings with your fellowmen always to treat them as you would like to have them treat you, there will be no occasion for any breach of courtesy or good manners. Even a simple thank-you is important in the lives of human beings. No matter how trifling or insignificant the favor conferred may be, it merits acknowledgment, and one who is negligent in this respect deserves to be considered ill-bred and ignorant.

Learn to think of others first. Small courtesies are the perfume of life. Kindness is the art of pleasing, the knack of contributing as much as possible to the ease and happiness of those with whom you converse. †

The Acquisition of Perfect Tranquility

By Dom Lorenzo Scupoli

The mild, peaceful, constant attention to the feelings of the heart will produce wonderful results; for we shall not only pray and act with great facility and peace, but shall even suffer without lamenting the disturbing elements of contempt and the injuries themselves.

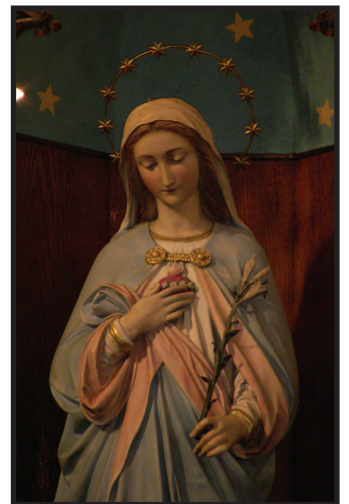
It is necessary, however, to undergo much toil before we acquire this serenity, for our inexperience inevitably exposes us to the assaults of powerful enemies. But once acquired, this peace will bring untold consolation to our souls in their fight against the disquieting elements of the world, and daily we shall perfect the art of quieting the turmoil of the spirit.

If at times you are in such confusion of mind that you seem totally incapable of calming yourself, have immediate recourse to prayer. And persevere in it in imitation of Christ, Our Lord, Who prayed three times in the garden to show mankind that only in conversation with God can afflicted souls find haven and refuge.

Let us pray without ceasing that repose may replace the chaos in our hearts, and that a humble submissiveness to God's will may bring our soul to its former tranquility.

Let us not be disturbed by the endless and pointless hurry of the business world; when we are at work, let us attend to business affairs with composure and ease, refraining from rigid conformity to a harsh, exacting schedule, and too great an eagerness to see our work done.

Our principal intention, a continual awareness of God's holy presence, and an unchanging desire to please Him, should preside over all our actions. And if we permit any other consideration to interfere, our souls will soon abound with fear and anxiety; we shall often fall, and the difficulty of recovering will convince us that our evils proceed invariably from acting in compliance with our own will and inclination. If on such occasions we are successful, then we are puffed up with vain satisfaction; and if we are disappointed, we are overwhelmed by uneasiness and vexation. †





A Non-Stop Campaign for the Release of the Third Secret

Over the past year and a half, the Fatima Center has launched four major initiatives to keep the fire burning for the release of the full Third Secret of Fatima.

In March 2008, we published Christopher Ferrara's superb book *The Secret Still Hidden*, which is the most up-to-date book on the subject. This was followed by the production of our DVD: *The Secret Still Silenced*, that received great acclaim from all who saw it.

We received word that our people were inviting others to their homes to watch the DVD — which often ended up in lively discussions, with many more people now convinced that the complete Third Secret has yet to be revealed.

We mailed the Third Secret DVD and Mr. Ferrara's book to tens-of-thousands, to alert as many as possible to the crucial fact that Our Lady's Third Secret of Fatima has yet to be fully disclosed, which is the part of the Third Secret that predicts a great crisis of Faith. As Cardinal Ciappi said, "In the Third Secret it is foretold, among other things, that the great apostasy in the Church begins at the top." Our Lady wants the Secret known to protect us from the apostasy enveloping our souls and the souls of our children.

Last March, in our "Target: Rome" campaign, we released the Italian version of Mr. Ferrara's book, which was on sale in newsstands throughout Rome and Naples. Then just this past summer, we mailed in massive numbers the long-awaited English translation of Antonio Socci's blockbuster work, *The Fourth Secret of Fatima*.

Our Lord in the Gospel tells us to persevere. The Parable of the Persistent Friend (Luke 11:8) encourages us to keep knocking, and eventually our

request will be granted, even if we pound on the door at midnight. Likewise, we must keep knocking during this dark night of history when our highest authorities have ignored Our Lady by continually turning a deaf ear to Her requests.

The Third Secret must be revealed in full, and the Consecration of Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary must be performed by the Pope in union with the world's bishops, if we want God to bless our nations, and a period of peace to be granted to the world. Our Lady promised it. We believe it. We work continuously to spread Her Message.

We thank all who have helped us to "keep knocking" by means of the latest books and DVD that we have widely circulated to spread the whole truth about the Third Secret of Fatima. We are the only Fatima apostolate doing this. With your support, we have many more plans to "keep knocking" in the future. †



We would like to hear from you!

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