

fixed on the priest, he sat motionless, drinking in every word that fell from his master's lips. The explanations over, he sat some time meditating the truths he had heard. He could not understand how his companions could be so indifferent as to hasten from the sacred things to which they had just been listening into the midst of the distractions of play.

Among the virtues which were particularly remarkable in Nunzio at this tender age, and which formed, as it were, the groundwork of his character, were humility and patience, two virtues so difficult to acquire that they are usually found to be the fruit of years of struggle with self and of patient suffering in the service of God.

Although naturally quick and impulsive, he never yielded to his inclinations. Never did he seek revenge on those who injured him, nor was he ever known to show deliberately an exterior sign of resentment.

"The virtues proper to his age," says Nicolas Fantucci, "were practised in a remarkable degree. His obedience was so perfect that the mere sign of his guardian's will sufficed. The love for his parents and for those placed over him was only excelled by his efforts to please them.

His exterior charmed all who met him. The purity and innocence of his guileless soul shed a lustre on his youthful countenance, to which even the most hardened were obliged to render the tribute of respect.

At home, he was always occupied; and when his work was over, his greatest happiness was to be found in the church. He had a passionate love for sacred songs, and more than once was he known to deprive himself of innocent amusements in order to save his money to buy a favorite hymn.

This favored child had early learned the most excellent means of proving his love for God. From a tender age he practised mortifications, and before he reached his eighth year, he had made a rule of fasting on the eves of