


to my shame I say it. But we had no glorious decorations like yours ; Brother, only field flowers, and the wild birds singing. And I had to travel ten miles to say my mass in the poorest country church. Well, God has given you a great gift for making His house beautiful, Brother."

"And He uses it always for God's greater glory," Father Baptiste added, but the Brother Sacristan most humbly bent his head.

"I have seen," he said "a place where the Lord's feet rested, that was far more beautiful than this is ; and a Sacristan far more favored and holy than this unworthy Brother can hope on earth to be.

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. . . JOY . . .

ENTLENESS and softness, says Surin, were the graces our Lord most desired that we should copy in Himself ; and certainly, whether we look at the edification of others, or the sanctification of ourselves, or of the glory our lives may give to God, — we shall perceive that nothing can rank in importance before gentleness of manner and sweetness of demeanour towards others. Answer peaceable things with mildness, says the wise man, and let there be no acid feeling in thy soul, and thou shalt be as the obedient son of the most High, and He will have mercy on thee more than a mother.

Now it is quite notorious that joy is of all things the one which most helps us in sustaining this equable sweetness towards others. When we are joyful, nothing comes amiss to us. Nothing takes us by surprise or throws us off our guard. Unkindly interpretations of other men's deeds and words seem unnatural to us ; and we loose our facility of judging harshly and of suspecting unreasonably. No matter what duty we are unexpectedly called to do no matter what little unforeseen disappointments come upon us, no matter what sudden provocation to petulance and irritability assail us, all seems to come right. There is no shadow in our souls under which we can sit and be morose ; for the grace of joy is as universal as the strong sunshine of a fine day.

FABER.