

Him. Your hearts, instead of the manger, shall be His resting-place. Be very careful, dear children, that He does not find them stained with ugly faults that will hurt His love more than the prickly straw of the rough crib, hurt His sacred flesh. Ask the Blessed Virgin and St. Joseph who grieved at the inability to render His visible birth-place a more fit abode for His glory, to prepare the sacred birth-place of your hearts, so lovingly, that He will be able to rest there.

By their tender pleadings they will help you to become so humble, patient and kind, that Jesus will be able, in truth, to rest in your hearts. Your faith and love will help to give Him back the glory of which many who do not know or care for Him, rob Him. He will feel that you are indeed, the little lambs of His fold whom He must shelter beneath the shadow of His love each day. Oh, think, dear children, how He honors you. Shall the tongue upon which Jesus has deigned to rest more humbly than He did upon the straw utter unkind, untruthful words? Can the heart that has been united to the Sacred Heart of Jesus shelter uncharitable, unholy feelings? With what tenderness will the Blessed Virgin and St. Joseph look down upon you as you kneel at the altar-rail! All the angels and saints, your friends in Heaven and on earth, will rejoice with you. Your Guardian Angels will join you in adoring welcome as your Saviour enters your little hearts. They will pray that you will never sully by sin the robe of grace with which He will adorn you at that moment. The whiteness of your veils, the lilies about you, are but faint shadows of the purity with which He clothes your souls. The light of the waxen candles, the fragrance of the incense as it floats upwards, tell you of the faith and love that must burn away all imperfection and keep you His very own forever. Ask your divine Guest, to shield you from all deliberate sin. Tell Him you wish to be true to Him always. Ask Him to help you to love Him so much that you will not bear to grieve Him, and Jesus will know your wish and bless it a hundredfold and give you the fulness of His benediction.

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