

to them, not given. How often are obstacles set in the way of the higher life by the example, by the unwillingness of the parents themselves! Frequently the pleading of the Sacred Heart is either unheeded or unheard. Natural affection, hopes of worldly prosperity, imaginary needs dull and blunt the perceptions of the soul and the voice of the Master which was heard above the wild rush of the storm and waves on the Sea of Galilee, is not perceived. What a risk such parents run lest one day God scourge them for their selfish disobedience.

It is not unknown that God has called and parents would not let their children go. For this disobedience such homes have been scourged. Firesides have been chilled and darkened, lives broken and shattered, and tears of blood shed. Young lives full of promise have been blighted with a blight more wasteful than that which swept over the land of Egypt at the command of Moses. Young hearts once noble in their aims, lofty in their purposes, and eager for things of God, have wilted and shrunk up and sunk to things low and degrading. Parents have lived to see the day and to regret that when God called they hardened their hearts. In bitterness and anguish of spirit they could say with Jeremias; "How is the gold become tarnished, the finest color is changed, the stones of the Sanctuary are scattered in the top of every street." This is the first lesson which we must take deeply to heart as we kneel during our Holy Hour and hear the angel in the night bid Joseph: "Arise and take the Child and His Mother and fly into Egypt."

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