

Thoughts for the Month of February.

THE early days of February remind us of the solemn scene when our Lord was offered in the Temple, as an act of humiliation that placed Him among sinners. The first-born son was sacred and had to be ransomed from the Lord. As we kneel during those days in adoration before the Tabernacle, let us unite our souls with the oblation that our sweet Jesus made of Himself for us and ask ourselves if there be not some offering we can make to Him in return. Our visits to our Lord must not be without their influence on our daily life. Is there not some act of charity that we can promise to our King? Perhaps there may come an inspiration to curb our impatience with others, to overcome the impulse to anger or to discouragement when things do not go as we wish. We must remember that Christ's yoke is a cross to be borne daily after Him.

Many who have turned to the service of God, find at first great delight and great spiritual consolation in their prayers and their visits. They are joyous and glad, because God bestows so many favors upon them. When He begins to hide Himself from them, they lose heart and imagine that they are no longer His friends, as if the test of our friendship were the constant reception of favors from our friends, rather than our endeavor to do something worthy of the love in our hearts. Let us not seek consolations for their own sake. We are sanctified by suffering, and when Christ sends the suffering to make us like Him, why should we repine? Crosses and trials make us detached from our own will, and conformed to the will of the Lord.

Again, we shall think often at this season of the lovely hidden life at Nazareth, a figure of the hidden life in the Tabernacle that He has been leading for so many hundred years. Most of us are called by God to lead a hidden life. Let the joy of our life be Jesus, as He was the joy of Mary and Joseph in the home of Nazareth. Let