

smile of God shines with eternal splendor, must have gazed with envy and awe and admiration at this miracle of love and grace! Yet if we saw our saint only in the delight of God's embraces, we might hesitate before his example, for we all know that though Heaven is to be found within the sacred precincts of the altar rails, beyond them stretches the greyness and gloom of the life of every day. Into these shadows St. Aloysius passed with a strong heart and firm will. We see the student bent over his books, plodding the same dreary, weary way along which all must plod to attain knowledge. Endowed with a rare intelligence and remarkable talents, he applied himself with such energy and zeal to the tasks before him, that his progress in piety and learning went hand in hand. His life, we are told, was one continual penance, the self-denial of every wish, the martyrdom of every moment, long painful vigils, austere fasts, the cross, always the cross, but with the light from the sanctuary shining ever upon it, for fervent prayer seems to have been his daily bread.

As the flower of his youth unfolded, the world smiled upon him. He was heir to a noble name, with all the qualities of mind and heart which would add new lustre to it. The hopes of a proud father were centred in him; but in the midst of the magnificence and royal pomp of a court he had already renounced vain joys, and decided to give himself to God in the illustrious order which bears the Sacred name. Behold, the sublimity of sacrifice is here attained! Beyond the portals before which he stands