

life, and the length of days guided by the spirit of true priesthood, such a priest has earned his experience – (he is not one who has gathered up his “EXPERIENCE” from the few remaining picture books to have escaped the BURN PILE!!

The holy priest is the one most familiar with the actual living conditions in the Household of Jesus, Mary and Joseph! Only the true and tried priest is the one most likely to make all the needed and proper introductions. The experience of the holy priest gives us the example, the ideal that will make us feel comfortable and at home when we are in the presence of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. Our visit must not be a source of embarrassment to us, neither should we be ill at ease or self-conscious. We must not feel out of place. We must feel as much at home in the Holy House of Nazareth as we ordinarily feel at home in our own! Our priest should be of the greatest help in this regard!

We will find the human ways of Jesus Christ, and the blessed ways of Mary and Joseph so tender and loving and truly magnificent and attractive and HOLY that we will soon begin to find ourselves quite unable to resist the gentle transformation taking place within us – in our very being. Without force or command or insinuation or any act of intrusion, the Beautiful Face of Jesus will transform us; the magnificence of the modesty of Mary will gently clothe us; the kindly and humble manliness of Joseph will teach us how to hold the place of Christ in our own family circle. Then, later, when the Holy Family returns a visit to our house, when Jesus and Mary and Joseph move about in our home, little by little the appliances of our unreligious world will begin to lose their attraction and their influence upon us will weaken.

Sanctity cannot be imposed upon anyone. Sanctity cannot be legislated. No one can be commanded to become holy! Should any ordained director of souls not know how to preach or council sanctity and holiness of life – the kind of holiness of life as lived – day after day – by Jesus and Mary and Joseph, then let such ones fall on their knees and pray for the grace of HUMILITY! THIS IS THE PLACE OF BEGINNING! Humility always demonstrates the way to God’s unprofitable servants! Quite soon GOOD WILL and priestly HUMILITY will begin to point the way for God’s Children. Then the obedient and the humble and the good and faithful priests and people – TOGETHER – will turn to the EASTERN HEAVENS and give acceptable praise to God!

If any part of this discourse is ever to take place, it has to begin with those of us who have been given the high calling of Christ’s Holy Priesthood – than which there is no higher calling on this earth. God spare us of career minded priests! Today, more than ever before, the priest of God must come to us from out of the humble House of Nazareth – not from out of the hallways of the prestigious houses of our world where priests are trained but improperly formed. If the Children of God have difficulty in turning to the priest and seeing in him the holy examples of Humility, Obedience, Stability, Poverty, Prudence, Charity, Genuine Piety, and all the rest – then, IN THE NAME OF GOD – to whom shall they go? Only the priest has the key to the Interior Life of the Soul. If the Heart of Man is ever to be changed, it must BEGIN with the change in the HEART of the PRIEST! □