

them and to their God.

In Nazareth, how happy were Mary and Joseph. How magnificent was their joy as they sat down to their simple meals with the little Boy Jesus between them. Joseph, of course, being the head of the Family, sat at the head of the table, and it was he that blessed the food that was to be eaten. Jesus, Who was God, sat in the second place and kept His silence! Does not one have to wonder at the feelings and emotions and thoughts that surely stirred in the mind and heart of Joseph each time he raised his voice in blessing? He knew Who it was that was sitting at his side at the table. When morning and evening came, as Mary and Joseph knelt beside Jesus, they knew very well, indeed, that He whose prayer went up with theirs was Himself the God to Whom they all three prayed. Has there ever on this earth been such a scene more wondrous, more indescribable than this? How absolutely beautiful, how excellent, how mysterious were morning and night prayers in the House of Nazareth!

As Jesus grew older, He swept the house, washed the dishes, went to the well to draw water, and went to the workshop to learn carpentry from His foster-father. No work was too lowly or too commonplace for Him Who, Himself, had made all things out of nothing. Joseph and Mary never for a moment lost sight of Who He was. They knew. And they kept silence, total silence. It was ever present in their minds and hearts that He Who came at their call, ran errands for them, and brought home to them the modest pay for Joseph's and His work, was Himself the Lord of all angels and of all men. With what tears of love and joy and wonder must they have cried as they saw the readiness with which He obeyed their slightest wish. How absolutely beautiful must have been the cheerfulness and grace with which He served them in every way.

Each night, before going to bed, He, Jesus Christ, the Second Person of the Most Blessed Trinity, knelt down at the knees of Joseph and received the blessing of a mere man.

Lest we forget, each and every day we are invited to kneel together with Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, but we must go to Nazareth for this. We must go and we must knock at the door. They will let us in when we knock, to be sure, but not if our will is not good! Peace will be extended only to those whose will is good! This is imperative. □

*The devil delights to fish in troubled waters,
and he finds that the troubled state of a soul
is best adapted to his evil machinations.*