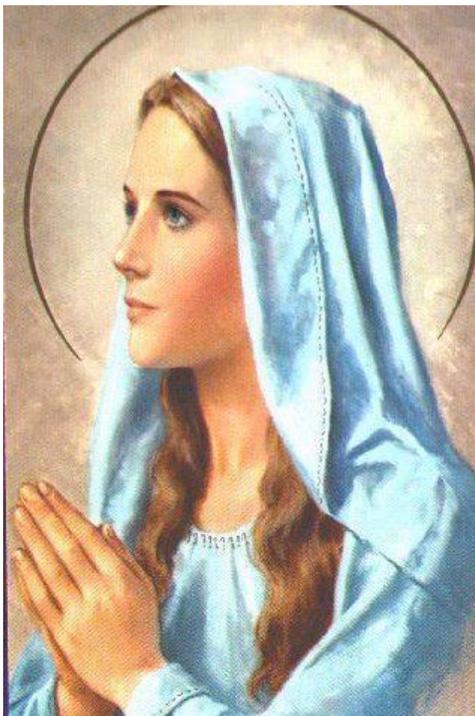


Necessity of Interior Silence

July 16



II. The Mysteries of Jesus' Infancy and Hidden Life

The mysteries of Jesus' hidden life

533 *The hidden life at Nazareth allows everyone to enter into fellowship with Jesus by the most ordinary events of daily life: The home of Nazareth is the school where we begin to understand the life of Jesus—the school of the Gospel. First, then, a lesson of silence. May esteem for silence, that admirable and indispensable condition of mind, revive in us . . .*

534 *The finding of Jesus in the temple... 7 ...Mary “kept all these things in her heart” during the years Jesus remained hidden in the silence of an ordinary life.*

III. Contemplative Prayer

2717 *Contemplative prayer is silence, the “symbol of the world to come”¹² or “silent love.”¹³ Words in this kind of prayer are not speeches; they are like kindling that feeds the fire of love. In this silence, unbearable to the “outer” man, the Father speaks to us his incarnate Word, who suffered, died, and rose; in this silence the Spirit of adoption enables us to share in the prayer of Jesus.*

Ecclesiastes 9:17

The words of the wise are heard in silence, more than the cry of a prince among fools.

Ecclesiasticus 32:9

Hear in silence, and for thy reverence good grace shall come to thee.

Habacuc (Habakkuk) 2:20

But the Lord is in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him.

From the Book of Heaven

V3 - May 20, 1900 - *Finding myself outside of myself, it seemed to me it was nighttime and I could see the whole universe, the whole order of nature, the starry heaven, the silence of the night... In sum, it seemed to me that everything had a meaning. While seeing this, I seemed to see Our Lord who, beginning to speak about what I was seeing, said: "All nature invites one to rest; but what is true rest? It is the interior rest and the silence of all that is not God. Look at the stars, twinkling with tempered light, not dazzling like the sun; the sleep and the silence of all nature, of men and also of animals – they all look for a place, a den, in which to be in silence and rest from the tiredness of life. If this is necessary for the body, much more is it necessary for the soul to rest in her own center, which is God. But in order to be able to rest in God, interior silence is necessary, just as exterior silence is necessary to the body in order to peacefully fall asleep. But what is this interior silence? It is to silence one's own passions by keeping them in their place; it is to impose silence on desires, on inclinations, on affections – in sum, on all that does not call upon God. Now, what is the means to reach this? The only means, and absolutely necessary, is for the soul to undo her own being and reduce herself to nothing, just as she was before being created; and once she has reduced her being to nothing, she must take it again in God..."*

FIAT!