

The Little Flower's Joy

By Father Feeneey

We have here, beside the Crucifix of Our Lord, a photograph of the Little Flower. I don't like photographs too much, but I want to make an exception in regard to this one, because I think we are very anxious to see how The Little Flower looked before she died.

You can see the beautiful majesty of the girl she was, and how much real suffering is in her face. You can see joy there, too, joy in suffering. Remember that I told you that her motto was to show Our Lord nothing but joy, and give Him only her beautiful heart, because she felt that His sorrows were greater than hers. If we don't know that His sorrows are greater than our own, we don't have the Faith. It is of the Faith that that is so. "All ye who pass by the way, attend and see if there be any grief like unto Mine."

We don't know what sorrow is, compared to His. So the most beautiful way to go to Jesus is to realize that His Heart is in more sorrow than our hearts ever could be. Our sorrow is only sadness relative to our little earthly happinesses. But imagine Eternal Joy and Bliss being plunged down, and spat upon, and crowned with thorns, and nailed to a Cross!

Eternity can say, "I grieve," and that is grief indeed. If God dies, then that is, indeed, death.

So the Little Flower thinks that His sorrow is greater than ours. In fact, she thinks that His sorrow is the only sorrow. And that is true. There is some sense in which His death is the only death, and His sorrow the only sorrow. And indeed, His joy the only joy. So if you want joy, you can go to Him, too.

I think myself that we always ought to look joyful, not to please the world, but to please Jesus, to encourage Him. For instance, if you are in sorrow, you don't get too much comfort if someone is sorrowful also. And if you have woes and somebody says, "Let me tell you my woes, too," that's no comfort. If someone is in woe, everyone else ought to stop being in woe until he is finished. If you hear someone say, "I have a pain in my back," you don't say, "Oh, I have a pain in my head." And you don't sit down and compare pains.

Now there are some sorrows with which we could go to Jesus, but I think that we shouldn't go. I don't think we should go to Jesus and pour into His wounded Sacred Heart that has loved men so much and received so little love in return, how little we are loved, and what we had to bear today. I don't think He is the One to go to for that.

In the first place, His sorrow is unique and alone. And secondly, He is a Child; go to Saint Joseph or Our Lady or God the Father, but leave this Eternal Child alone. He is laden with more sorrows than He can bear.

Soeur Therese, our little photographed loved one, called herself, "Therese of the Child Jesus." So she was interested in the Child Jesus. You are even more anxious not to let a child know you are suffering. A parent doesn't sit down and give the child a recital of his woes.

If you want to please the Child Jesus, talk to Him as a Child. Cheer Him up. Forget your gloom and just go.

He will bear His sorrows much more beautifully if He sees joy on your face, or at least an effort at joy.

I don't put it very well, but there is a beautiful thought in that. It is such a simple little idea that anybody could work it out quite well.

Don't bring to Jesus your sorrows. Bring to Him your joys, your comforts. Let Him, however, bring His sorrows to you. That is very childlike, too. If He wants to bring His sorrows to you, and if He wants to complain to you, as He did to Saint Margaret Mary, or take His sorrows and print them on your hands, as He did to Padre Pio, all right. Or if He wants to make your face look sad, let it be sad with His expression.

If you look into the face of the Little Flower I think you will see a wonderful joy of heart there. If there is a sadness, it is a reflection of the little Child Jesus's sadness.

See what wonderful lessons we learn from the simple little thoughts of the saints. — Taken from *Not Made for This World*.