

## *Rejoice and Be Glad*

### *Chapter 3 Three cont. and Chapter 4*

102. We often hear it said that, with respect to relativism and the flaws of our present world, the situation of migrants, for example, is a lesser issue. Some Catholics consider it a secondary issue compared to the “grave” bioethical questions. That a politician looking for votes might say such a thing is understandable, but not a Christian, for whom the only proper attitude is to stand in the shoes of those brothers and sisters of ours who risk their lives to offer a future to their children.

104. We may think that we give glory to God only by our worship and prayer, or simply by following certain ethical norms. It is true that the primacy belongs to our relationship with God, but we cannot forget that the ultimate criterion on which our lives will be judged is what we have done for others.

108. Hedonism and consumerism can prove our downfall, for when we are obsessed with our own pleasure, we end up being all too concerned about ourselves and our rights, and we feel a desperate need for free time to enjoy ourselves.

### *Chapter Four: Signs of Holiness in Today’s World*

111 There are five great expressions of love for God and neighbor that I consider of particular importance in the light of certain dangers and limitations present in today’s culture.

#### **Perseverance, Patience and Meekness**

112 & 115. The first of these great signs is solid grounding in the God who loves and sustains us. This source of inner strength enables us to persevere amid life’s ups and downs, but also to endure hostility, betrayal and failings on the part of others. “If God is for us, who is against us?” (*Rom 8:31*): this is the source of the peace found in the saints. Such inner strength makes it possible for us, in our fast-paced, noisy and aggressive world, to give a witness of holiness through patience and constancy in doing good. It is a sign of the fidelity born of love, for those who put their faith in God can also be faithful to others. They do not desert others in bad times; they accompany them in their anxiety and distress, even though doing so may not bring immediate satisfaction.... Christians too can be caught up in networks of verbal violence through the internet and the various forums of digital communication.

#### **Joy and Sense of Humor**

122. Far from being timid, morose, acerbic or melancholy, or putting on a dreary face, the saints are joyful and full of good humor. Though completely realistic, they radiate a positive and hopeful spirit. The Christian life is “joy in the Holy Spirit”.

125. Hard times may come, when the cross casts its shadow, yet nothing can destroy the supernatural joy that “adapts and changes, but always endures, even as a flicker of light born of our personal certainty that, when everything is said and done, we are infinitely loved.” That joy brings deep security, serene hope and a spiritual fulfillment that the world cannot understand or appreciate.

#### **Boldness and Passion**

129. Holiness is also is boldness, an impulse to evangelize and to leave a mark in this world. To allow us to do this, Jesus himself comes and tells us once more, serenely yet firmly: “Do not be afraid”

#### **In Community**

141. Growth in holiness is a journey in community, side by side with others....In many holy marriages too, each spouse becomes a means used by Christ for the sanctification of the other.

#### **In Constant Prayer**

149 - 151 Some moments spent alone with God are also necessary. In that silence, you can discern, in light of the Spirit, the paths of holiness to which the Lord is calling us. Otherwise, any decision we make may only be window dressing. It is essential to spend time with the Master, to listen to his words, and learn from him always. Unless you listen, all our words will be nothing but useless chatter.