

Joy and Love, (continuation)¹

St. Peter Julian Eymard to the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament
Paris, Tuesday, August 31, 1858

My Sisters, in your vocation you should live in joy, not always in a joy of feelings, but in a joy of good will. That joy is love; one who loves lives in joy. The joy of feelings is temporary, sometimes God gives it as a preparation for sacrifice, but there is a joy that should always be in our heart, the joy of a child for its mother. Nothing is hard for this child who wants to please its mother. I'm not saying that you should never feel sorrow and sadness in your heart; that doesn't depend on you. There are times of temptations, aridity, and death that are hard to bear; but you can have the joy of good will that does everything out of love, without considering if the heart is happy or not.

Forget yourself, and think only about the joy of doing something for Jesus. You should have that inner disposition in all your duties of piety, obedience and penance. The harder an action is, the more you should do it with love. Our Lord says: *to everyone who has more will be given* [Mt 25:20]. When someone seems overburdened, we don't dare ask more of them. However, a person of good will, even if heavily burdened, is always ready for more. Such a one will be given more and new opportunities to give witness to her love for God. This is what our Lord is doing, he knows souls of good will, and never leaves them without work. After one sacrifice, he asks another. That is how they constantly enrich themselves.



Point for reflection:

Here we can notice the paradox of Christian life. In the Rule of Life, look for the numbers that refer to joy. In your own words, reformulate this instruction.

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¹ Number 65. *La joie, l'amour. Suite.*