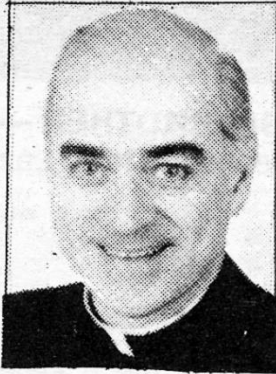


Live Joyfully

Why be good when it's more fun and more glamorous to stray from the straight and narrow?

Why be good? Because it's better to imitate the saints than to follow losers. In the lives of those who share our humanity there were special people who were transformed into suc-



cessful images of Christ. God vividly speaks to us through them because they manifest His Divine Presence. They are signs of the Kingdom to which we are powerfully drawn. We learn to persevere in our good intentions because we are surrounded by "so great a cloud of witnesses." (Hebrews 12:1) "All of us, with unveiled faces, (see) the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror. (We too) are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for (all) this comes from the Lord, the Spirit." (2 Corinthians 3:18)

Why be good? Because being good brings joy to the soul. Even when the price of being good is costly, you can learn to bleed willingly and joyfully because of the knowledge of God's love. As St. Paul said, "For here we have no lasting city, but we are looking for the city that is to come." (Hebrews 13:14)

Why be good? Because the kingdom is not only in the future, the kingdom begins here and now. While the life to come is rooted in the redemptive suffering of Jesus Christ, it is anticipated in the present in the sacraments and in the people of God. We are all carriers of divine

glory because the Risen Christ is within us right now.

Why be good? Because sound moral values are essential for decent living. One need not be beautiful, rich or successful to be fully human, but one must be loving, honest, faithful and persevering. Being good is not merely a matter of asking what is the right thing to do. It's more a matter of knowing what is the right way to be. Being good is an habitual attitude, more than an isolated deed. The will says "yes or no" to a whole way of life. Saying yes to God is a habit which builds up momentum, thus enabling us to carry on, enduring the cross in all circumstances.

Why be good? Because the stakes are so exceedingly high if we are not. Jesus asked, "What would it mean if you gained the whole world, but lost your immortal soul in the process? A thought to ponder.

Why be good? Because goodness shines its own beautiful light. We long for heaven which has been promised to us. Our endless struggle for truth and goodness comes from an inner movement of the soul. We yearn for ultimate fulfillment. We want to be good because it is our destiny to be one with Goodness Itself for all eternity.

St. Augustine reduced moral theology to one sentence when he wrote: "Do what you can do and pray for what you cannot yet do."

In the meantime, live joyfully because of the knowledge of God's love.

[For a free copy of the Christopher News Note, Living Joyfully, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to The Christophers, 12 E. 48th St., New York, N.Y. 10017.]

