

easiest person in the world to get along with, while St. Juliana Falconieri and St. Rose of Lima are only two examples of girls of exceptional beauty and attractiveness who had to battle against irritable and worldly-minded mothers who were set on making suitable marriages for their lovely, but unwilling, daughters.

Goodness, then, is always ready to diffuse itself, *but only where it is wanted*. And the difficulty today seems to be that goodness is simply not wanted. Therefore, goodness is not diffusing itself. Or, if it is wanted, it is not wanted enough to pay the price of goodness, which is generous love and sacrifice. Hence we find the family today disintegrating, rotting from within, dying of a selfishness which finds its expression in terms of divorce, birth control, and euthanasia.

All this in the face of hundreds of examples (past and present) of family saints and of family sanctity and in flat contradiction to the example of the most perfect family that ever inhabited this earth, the family in which every member was a saint. There was nothing selfish, exclusive or individualistic about this family: each member lived and worked for the other. The father was a carpenter, the mother was a virgin and the Child was God.

GIFTS

RAYMOND VIVIER, O.P.

See what I bring you, little One:
No woolly lamb, no shining drum;
No myrrh, frankincense, ruddy gold,
Like Orient Kings in days of old—

I bring the price of lonely years,
Of wooded cross, of Mary's tears,
A something of myself a part,
All that I have—I bring my heart.