



## QUESTIONS FOR UNDERSTANDING & REFLECTION

### *The Fruits of Union* (pp. 385 – 413)

1. How, according to St. John of the Cross, does a soul in union with God respond to all “the things that happen to her,” whether good or bad? Why does the soul respond that way?
2. How does the love experienced by a soul in union express itself?
3. What does St. Bernard advise a person to do who is confused about how much time to spend in contemplation and how much time to spend actively serving others?
4. If people want their work to become more fruitful, what does St. John say they must do?
5. How, according to St. Catherine, is the love for God experienced by a soul in the unitive way different from the love experienced by souls in the purgative and illuminative ways?

6. How did St. Therese's love for creation lead her to greater love for God? How did entering the unitive stage deepen her love for creation?
  
7. What, according to St. Catherine, is the foundation for the peace and joy experienced by souls in the unitive way?
  
8. How does the devil respond to souls in union with God? What's the reason for that response?
  
9. Why might God, under certain circumstances, remove a sense of His presence from a soul in the state of spiritual marriage?
  
10. Describe three different ways that the extreme joy experienced by souls in union with God can manifest itself in this life.
  
11. What does St. Bernard's advice to interrupt him even when in contemplation tell us about the importance of serving others in the life of faith?
  
12. In light of question four above, and judging by your actions, whose advice – St. John's or the world's – do you most often follow in that regard?
  
13. Do you see the joy of salvation expressed in your life and the life of your parish? If so, how? If not, why do you think that is and what can you do to change that?