The Quotable

for faith

Saint Ignatius of
RECENT

Not all articles published on CERC are the objects of official Church teaching, but these are supplied to provide supplementary information.

here

of articles, Father Hardon was a close associate and advisor of Pope Paul VI, Pope John Paul II, Catholic Catechism

THE AUTHOR

over twenty-five books including

imperfectly in this life, or by vision and without end in the life to come.

does it mean to be truly happy? It means to experience the presence of God whether by faith and

angels and saints and the other on earth in the hearts of those who are doing God's will. And in

expressions that Christ might have used, He said, “and they will make their home with us”; They

In His own words, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit will love us if we love Them by keeping Their

matter what the cost to self-will or self-conceit. We do His will and He, this is really strange, He

the night before He died: “If anyone loves me he will keep my words and my Father will love him

experience or rapture or ecstasy? Not at all. When I wrote these lines that I am sharing with you

matters absolutely is that we and no one else, not even God

in touch with God or living in the presence of God or being

genuine happiness, not only in the life to come, but in this life,

a religious to his or her community, only to find him or herself, as they say, put on the shelf, and

recognize what we do for them. And they never, we may feel, appreciate enough what we do.

-- that those we try and actually help may not appreciate our efforts. I hope you have lived long

children for whom they had been working all day.

physically worn out, suddenly beam as they entered their home and caught sight of the wife and

the blind leading the blind. I have seen husbands come home from a hard day's work, tired and

very happy. But why? Because she made every effort, sometimes not appreciated, to make the

book reads and the Sisters who knew her tell me -- she was, along with her painful illness, very,

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people. Have you ever met a truly happy, but selfish person? There is something in our human

Second condition for true happiness is generosity. People who are generous are happy

confident expectation of a heavenly reward. I am happy now, although perhaps in trial, because I

when we are thus persecuted, you know what the Savior says, we are not just to rejoice, we are

in spite of, but actually because the outer man is undergoing tribulation in a just cause. In fact,

Christ even foretold how happy would be those who are persecuted in the cause of right. There is

look at the

people, impatient people, lazy people, proud people are not happy. No matter how many

fundamental condition for valid happiness. By the moral life I mean the practice of the virtues of

true happiness is or are not willing to pay the price to achieve it.

happy already this side of heaven. He does not want us to be sad.

as a homely definition of sanctity, I would say that it is the achievement of true happiness. The

cannot pass over at the risk of talking about holiness without ever arriving there. If I were to coin

the proper means. You might ask: why go into this huge subject? Why not deal with something

so many people can only be due to ignorance or failure to take

The logical division of our title is to ask “What is true happiness?” and to find out “How do you

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to please his saintly sister. She had been praying for thirty years for his return to God. She died

One of the most unhappy men I ever met was in New York State on his square-mile estate. A

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Confession of St. Augustine.

by faith and

Here to advance the happiness

The second condition for true happiness is generosity. People who are generous are happy

in greater or lesser

characteristics that are

entertainment or fine clothes or physical beauty or in any one of the thousand ways that the

does not consist in

does not consist in acquiring a reputation or becoming the idol

early grave. It does not consist in immense learning or

to please his saintly sister. She had been praying for thirty years for his return to God. She died

drove in his limousine, driven by the chauffeur, through twenty miles of garden, he kept

to be false, seeing how many people are pursuing what they think will make them happy and are

As a background for this question we might for a few moments reflect on false happiness. It has

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