**Holiness Is ...**  
  
**By Father John Catoir**  
  
Holiness is not something that comes from doing good;

we do good because we are holy.  
  
Holiness is not something we acquire by avoiding evil;

we avoid evil because we are holy.  
  
Holiness is not something that follows from prayer;

we pray because we are holy.  
  
Holiness is not the result of kindness;

we are kind because we are holy.  
  
Holiness is not something that blossoms when we are courageous;

we are courageous because we are holy.  
  
Holiness is not the result of character building;

we build character because we are holy.  
  
Holiness is not a gift we obtain after a lifetime of service;

we give service because we are holy.  
  
Our holiness is God with us, Emmanuel.

And while it's' true that holiness carries with it both the Cross and Resurrection,

it is more a gift than a reward.