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"Seventeen" and "The Disciple Whom He Loved"

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Notes from "Catechesis"

⁰ Richard Robert Osmer, "Restructuring Confirmation," *Theology Today* 49/1 (April 1992) 46–67.

¹ Robert Grant, "The Development of the Christian Catechumenate," in *Made Not Born* (Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press, 1976) 33–49.

² Osmer, 52.

³ Thomas Campbell, "Family Education, The Nursery," *Millennial Harbinger* 4, new series (1840) 340–45 and J. W. McGarvey, "Religious Duties of Children," *Millennial Harbinger* 7, series 5 (1843) 536–39.

⁴ Donald E. Miller, *Story and Context* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1987) 53.

⁵ Osmer, 60.

⁶ Miller, 53.

⁷ *Ibid.*, 61.

⁸ See Heb 6:1, 2.

⁹ Another example of liturgy and life is found in the situation in Corinth. The Corinthian church was divided, its members were acting selfishly, and many were weak and ill. Paul

called the church to reexamine the Eucharist and to appropriate the reality of the sacrament (1 Cor 11:17–33).

¹⁰ James Thompson, "The Education of Children in the Early Church," *Institute for Christian Studies: Faculty Bulletin* 4 (November 1983) 17.

¹¹ Osmer, 56–57.

¹² G. R. Beasley-Murray, *Baptism in the New Testament* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1962) 264.

¹³ Commission on Faith and Order, World Council of Churches (1982), "Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry," in *Creeds of the Churches*, 3rd edition, ed. John H. Leith (Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1982) 606–07.

¹⁴ Susanne Johnson, *Christian Spiritual Formation in the Church and Classroom* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1989) 117.

¹⁵ William Willimon, *Remember Who You Are: Baptism, A Model for Christian Life* (Nashville: The Upper Room, 1980) 94.

Seventeen

My dad was fatherless and helping
To support his mother and five sisters,
World War I was muddling to an end
And the future was farm and blisters

I finished high school at seventeen
The future was somewhat farther away
And sailed a berth in World War II
As the world became excessive and gray.

My oldest son reached his age
After the close of the Vietnam action,
And college and law school lay ahead
In a world parched and factioned.

Perhaps the planet will not be burning
When a grandson reaches seventeen,
More fortunate than many across the seas
Who must die for political schemes.

Close your eyes, pray with me
For the magical world of seventeen
Where a future can begin each day
And the world be replanted green.

H. Eugene Johnson

Tampa, Florida 7/14/96

The Disciple Whom He Loved

Martha and Mary here is our mother-guest
Who will live with us from now on
For the Tree has his reputation purloined,
Perhaps only I embody constancy

She comes into our home broken
From the fears of recent seasons,
Through tears of shrouded visions
So bright in his infancy,
Blackened now be malevolent men.

The chosen Twelve all fled last night
Into the labyrinth of their confusion
Hope against hope dashed by disillusion,
Within my breast the corruption of the grave
Before the call that brought back the light.

From swollen lips, behold your son,
Then to me, behold your mother;
Why me when he had three brothers
And would not she prefer her own
Flesh than the shelter of someone

Who was only a friend? Yet Family
Can be the fruit of what we believe
In homage to the Father who grieves
Over the waywardness of man,
And offers immunity and pedigree.
(John 19:25-27)

H. Eugene Johnson

Tampa, Florida 7/17/96