Jesus’ laughter filled the Holy Family’s humble home in Nazareth. Whenever Jesus laughed, Mary’s and Joseph’s hearts bubbled with joy; it did not matter how tired or sad they had been just a moment before. The young Jesus would laugh over the wonder of a tree or a flower, or the song of a house sparrow, and His laughter was always mingled with love. Mary and Joseph treasured Jesus’ laughter, from His infant coos to the free laughter of His boyhood.

They also treasured Jesus’ silence.

At times, Jesus would fall into a silence rich with unspoken words. Sometimes, He would go off alone into the quiet. In this silence, Mary and Joseph knew, Jesus was speaking to His heavenly Father.

We can imagine the Holy Family greeting the morning with prayer to God. Joseph would chant aloud the psalms, Mary would say to the Father, “Let it be done according to your word,” and Jesus would say to His heavenly Father, “Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”

When Jesus was twelve, the Holy Family traveled in a caravan to Jerusalem to celebrate the feast of Passover. When Mary and Joseph left Jerusalem with the caravan, they thought Jesus was with relatives or friends. It was only after a day’s journey that they discovered that Jesus was nowhere to be found. They had lost Jesus in Jerusalem! He could be anywhere in that busy and dangerous city!

Mary and Joseph rushed back to Jerusalem and desperately searched for Jesus for three days. On the third day, they went to the Temple, ready to pour out their sorrow to God and beg for His help. To their astonishment, there Jesus was, speaking to the teachers at the Temple. The amazed teachers were asking themselves who this young boy named Jesus was, who spoke with wisdom beyond His years.

Mary went to Jesus and asked Him in a quiet voice why He had caused them so much worry. Jesus answered, “Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?” Joyful that they had found Jesus, Mary and Joseph returned to their humble home in Nazareth. There, Jesus was obedient to His Mother and foster father, and He learned Joseph’s trade as a carpenter. Together, the Holy Family prayed and worked and lived ordinary lives, offering everything they did with love to the heavenly Father. Holy Family, help me to offer my ordinary days with love to my heavenly Father!