

Do you mean, Gerondissa, that joy can become permanent?!

Mother Gavriilia: Yes. ... *Even if we are doing something very important, such as Praying, we should open our door when someone knocks.* As the Saint says, pretend that you were not at prayer and do not send him away. Open your door and tell him: "*Come in, brother.*" When we have reached the point of thinking like that, of thinking only of our brother and not of own self, our joy will become permanent. And as we have become the mirror in which the other one sees his own reflection, if this mirror is filled with joy, he will surely see that too... This is most essential. Listen well, EVERYTHING, in capital letters – is done either because God Wills it or because God Permits it. There is no third version! Therefore, since God wills it, I accept it with all my heart; since God permits it, again I accept it with the same joy. For He has His reasons – it is a Training... Never dare ask "why". NEVER! Because he who asks "why", writes "I". And where there is an "I", there can be neither progress nor hope.

Nun: Gerondissa, you have spoken of joy. Yet the Fathers tell us to have sorrow and tears for our sins. How can these be combined?

Mother Gavriilia: I will tell you. The moment we become aware that we did something wrong, we shall shed tears, and we shall feel contrition, we shall repent. Then, the joy of pardon should follow, because we know that God is Compassionate and All Merciful.