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"Seventeen" and "The Disciple Whom He Loved"

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Notes from "Catechesis"

2 Osmer, 52.
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).
11 Osmer, 56–57.

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**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

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**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