

Jesus and the Youth.



My Child, do not forget that you are beholden to Me for your being, for your life, for all that you have ; for « I have created you for My glory, I have formed and made you. » (Is. XLIII.) You belong to Me ; therefore you should live and work for My glory alone. Does Saint Paul not teach that he who planteth a vineyard hath a right to eat of the fruit thereof? Well, I created you and placed you in this world ; therefore, I have a right to the fruit you bear, to your thoughts, your words and actions. If you wish to lay claim to them by satisfying your own love of fame, by gratifying some immoderate desire, you rob Me of My glory, and are guilty of injustice. For this reason, Holy Scriptures says : « The Lord thy God shalt thou adore and Him only shalt thou serve. » (Matt. iv.) Yes, you must serve and live for Me alone ; you are My property, so much so, that were I to withdraw My loving hand, you would instantly fall into nothingness.

O my soul, you know and believe this truth. You understand that every instant of your existence must be consecrated to Jesus who has a right to do with you as He pleases. You must ever adore His holy will in all things. Yes, dear Lord, I know and firmly believe all these things. I have frequently dwelt in thought upon them, but, alas ! how rare the moments of my life that I gave to Thee ; how often have I not rebelled against Thy holy will ! I deplore my folly on account of the wrong it has done my soul, and more especially because I have offended Thee. Do forgive me, I implore Thee, and grant me sufficient grace to understand my evil conduct and live henceforth for Thee alone.

Remember, My dear Child, that you belong to Me not only because I created you, but also because I redeemed you. God-man, I freed you from Satan's chains which kept you in slavery on account of Adam's sin. I ransomed you at the price of My precious Blood, thereby acquiring an inalienable right over you. « You are not your own, for you are bought with a great price. » (I Cor. vi.) When a man buys a house and pays for it, he has an absolute right over it. Anyone wishing to appropriate a part of that house for his personal use without