

It matters little how we look at this devotion, all the motives that could possibly be brought forward to induce us to love and practice it in our daily lives lose none of their cogency. What more excellent, indeed, than the material object of the devotion, the Heart itself of the Man-God, the very source whence flowed the Blood which has washed out the sins of the world? What more excellent than the spiritual object which is the very love of the Divine Saviour for us sinners?

What more touching than the devotion that puts before us the Heart of a God living and dying out of love for us? It is from the Sacred Heart, as from a fountain-head of warmth and light, that the rays of God's love shines with incomparable refulgence, piercing the coldness of men's hearts.

Elsewhere we have shown the utility of the devotion, and the ease with which it may be practised. Suffice it to say here, that by it we are, in truth, united to God in His desires, and affections and hopes. An intimate union is effected between us and the Model of all virtue, the result of which is felt even in the chilly outside world. Society, not less than individuals, find in the devotion to the Sacred Heart the warmth and invigorating influence needed so much in our age. And such is the salutary influence of this heavenly devotion that society, once decrepit and vigorless, is drawing fervor out of its abundance. What is transforming the hearts of men more rapidly than devotion to the Sacred Heart? Ask those zealous pastors of souls who have it deeply rooted in these parishes. St. Gertrude, as far back as the thirteenth century, told us that the souls of men would find in the Heart of Jesus all the warmth and life they need for their sanctification.