

who is our Mother also. If you saw a brute beast suffering you would pity it. What, then, should be your commiseration for the sufferings of your Lord and your God? O, my Jesus, crucified for my love; look at the wounds of *your hands*. You, in them, have written in your blood the act of my redemption. Read this handwriting and save me.—I know that to effect the redemption of such a monster of ingratitude as I, nothing less will suffice than the all-powerful virtue of your wounds. Imprint them in my heart, and may I experience therein a lively grief for your sufferings.

Flower—The Stabat Mater kneeling in spirit on Calvary.

Fruit—Love of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and of Mary crucified for our love.

MEDITATION.

AUGUST 24.—*Martyrdom of the Sacred Heart of Mary consummated at the last words addressed to her by Jesus.*

First Point—Consider that Jesus after having bestowed Paradise on the good thief, and bequeathed to his enemies his last dying prayer, bequeathes to Mary most solemnly another son in his place in the person of St. John, and gives to John Mary for mother. From the height of his cross, says St. Ambrose, Jesus dictated his last will, John wrote and sealed it, a worthy witness of so great a testator. The words were to Mary, woman, *behold your son*. To John, *behold your mother*. This term woman, was like a sharp sword, which grievously wounded the heart of Mary, already torn. It was much more painful than any sword, to hear herself no longer called by the name of *mother*.

And then, what an exchange, John instead of Jesus, the disciple for the master, the Son of Zebedee for the Son of God. This grief surpassed all her other griefs. While Jesus said these few words, says St. Bernard, these loving hearts ceased not to bleed. They were both silent, excessive grief not allowing them to speak. O, Heavens! what has it not cost the Son of God to give us his Mother, and what has it not cost his mother to have us for children.

What value do we set on this precious gift, which has cost such a price.—Is there any mother whose children have ever cost her so much as we have cost to Mary. Her pain in bringing us forth far surpassed those of all the martyrs. And as the Holy Ghost tells us, not to *forget the pains of our mother*, we should correspond to them by a filial love. O, glorious Queen of martyrs, by the mortal anguish I cost you at the foot of the cross, obtain that I may never forget your sighs and tears, nor the precious bequest of your dying Son, when he said "*Behold your Mother.*"

Flower—Consecrate yourself to Mary at the foot of the Cross, lovingly accept her for Mother, and thank Jesus for the precious gift.

Fruit—Honor, love, and imitate Mary, like an affectionate child.

MEDITATION.

AUGUST 25.—*The Sacred Heart of Mary is a Motherly Heart.*

First Point—Consider that since Jesus placed us in Mary's care she has loved us with a maternal love. She