

that the malady may not kill him. Yes, Jesus, I believe in the love that crucifies. If the cross were not a benefit never would Thy Divine Father have laid it upon Thy shoulders, and more than that, have planted it so cruelly in Thy Heart.

But the Divine Saviour is not satisfied to walk before us, Cross on shoulder, to induce us to follow. In an excess of love, He has willed to abide with us on this earth of suffering, to aid us Himself by His example and succor to carry our own cross.

Yes, Jesus has remained in the Blessed Sacrament to be our perfect exemplar. He is ever walking before us laden with the cross of ignominy, which He bears with incomparable patience, smoothing the roughness of the way for our feet to tread, encouraging us not to flee, but to embrace the Cross with ardor.

Still more, He desires to render us until the end of time, — and with what perfection ! — the same service that a man had rendered Him for only a few moments on the way to Calvary. He wants to be Himself our Cyrenean ! He wants to help us bear our cross ! What do I say ? He desires to take for Himself all its bitterness, and to leave to us only its sweetness and merit. For this end, He leaves the tabernacle to enter into us, to live in us, to communicate to us His strength, His courage, His love of suffering, His life. How easy it is, then, to tread the hardest roads to heaven when Jesus is our leader ! How light the cross becomes when it is the Saviour Himself who helps us to carry it ! “ Oh ! ” says Ven. Père Eymard, “ how penance and mortification and sacrifices lose their bitterness when we have received Jesus Crucified ! ”

How thank Jesus-Hostia for so much goodness ? How often has the Divine Saviour, in the words of Scripture, consoled you like a tender mother ! Never were your tears dried so quickly as when you shed them before Jesus-Eucharistic, shut up in His tabernacle, or better, in your heart. It is because He alone can know our trials, and He alone is able to soothe them.

