

Heart of Jesus. Son of Mary.

HOOR OF ADORATION



I. — Adoration.

"*Cor Jesu, Filii Virginis Matris, miserere nobis!*" Let us adore the Heart of the little Infant beating against the heart of His Mother, while she presses Him with joy in her tender and sheltering arms. This Infant is the true, the own Son of this Mother, formed of her blood and strengthened by her substance, born of her womb and nourished by her milk. After the Divine Sonship, which He received from His Father in eternity, nothing is truer, greater, more necessary to God and to the world, nor dearer to Jesus Himself than the human Sonship that He received in time from His Mother.

Thence spring the sacred and august relations which forever bind the Heart of this unique Son to this unique Mother. First, they are the bonds of nature: the bond of origin, which attaches the child to the mother as to the cause of its existence; the bond of blood which, flowing from the heart of the mother into that of the child, creates between them a kind of identity; and the bond of life preserved and increased by the nourishment received from the maternal bosom. Secondly, there are the moral bonds of the natural law which obliges the child to dependence upon and obedience to her who holds from the Creator the care of directing its infancy; which obliges it by gratitude toward her who, having given it life by exposing her own, surrounds it at every instant by her devoted care and solicitude. Lastly, the bonds of choice, of affection, of love, which attach the child to its mother by the qualities and virtues that it discovers in her, by their life in common, their mutual joys and sorrows, in which their hearts are dissolved in one same affection, which, by ennobling, strengthens all the other ties.

The Heart of the Infant God so much the more perfectly embraced all these sacred obligations toward His Mother, as it was to Mary alone, the unique principle of His human life, that He owed all that He had received. He loved those bonds so much the more ardently as Mary possessed in the highest degree all the qualities of the motherhood, and fulfilled its duties without faltering. It was with all the strength, all the tenderness and delight of His Heart that He loved His mother, gave Himself to her, obeyed and served her. With the same affections He still continues, and He will forever continue to serve her even in His glory, looking upon Himself as forever bound to her by the most profound filial piety. But at the moment that, formed of the blood of