



HOUR OF ADORATION "Behold thy Mother"

(Continued from February Number)

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III. REPARATION.

"Behold thy Mother!" — John was a good son to Mary. For the long years that he had the happiness of caring for her after the Ascension of Jesus, the disciple was toward her a model of filial devotedness. But it must not be forgotten that he had not accepted Mary as his Mother for himself alone. It was in the name of all mankind that he had received her from Jesus; it was in the name of all that he contracted with her the obligation of loving and serving her.

It is, then, a rigorous duty to recognize in Mary a Mother. It is a commandment, an expressed will of the Son of God, a new moral law which He promulgated and wishes to see observed by every one who desires to be His disciple.

How do I fulfil my obligations of child of Mary? Do I *in practice* recognize Mary for my real Mother? Am I persuaded that it was to bring me forth to the life of grace that Mary suffered so much on Calvary? that it is I who have brought so many tears to her eyes by crucifying her well-beloved Son?

Do I compassionate the dolours of Mary when meditating on the sufferings of Jesus? Have I not despised her tenderness, disdained her love? How many Christians, in spite of their sacred promises, think not of her, never kneel before her image to repeat that prayer which cradled their infancy — *Ave Maria!*

What sorrow for Mary! To have children who have cost her so dear, to have sacrificed herself for them, and to receive from a great number of them only coldness, neglect, and ingratitude, indifference and forgetfulness! Do you not hear her at this very moment expressing her grief and, in a voice broken by sobs, repeating the words of the prophet: "I have brought up children and exalted them, but they have despised me" (Is. I, 2).