

It is but too true, that what gives rise within us to a disordinate attachment to creatures, and leads us, alas ! at every turn to make an ill use of God's gifts, is solely, under one form or another, *selfishness*, "that great wound of modern society, selfishness, which is the idolatry of self and the worship of the sensual self and the pride of self."

"But," continues the Holy Father, "what means is better devised for the overcoming of this egotism than the infinite power of that flame of love, which, breaking forth from the most loving Heart of Jesus, wrapped the whole world in one vast conflagration of holy charity, quickening the pulseless form of pagan society with a new soul instinct with a moral and civil life? 'I am come to send fire upon the earth, and what will I but that it be kindled?'"

It is that divine charity, and it alone, which, by making us consider with an equal eye poverty and wealth, humiliation and honors, life and death, will dispose us to make a good use of all these boons which come from God, how opposite soever they may seem, but which, if we only will it, may all lead us safely to our end.

It is it again which will incline all noble and generous souls to seek preferably whatever may identify them more with the cross and the complete sacrifices of the Word Incarnate.

In a word, it is that charity of the Heart of Jesus which, by awakening within us a keener sense of gratitude at the sight of those peerless gifts of grace, will endow us with a ready and generous docility to the Holy Ghost, thereby fashioning us into worthy instruments for the salvation and regeneration of the world.

"Thus," said his Holiness in conclusion, "your prayer, blended habitually with the imitation of our Lord's Sacred Heart, and re-enforced by the mediation and the