

should be accomplished ; a generous and heroic love, which, possessing the riches of heaven and earth, made him poor that he might enrich us, and reduced him almost to annihilation, that through his humility we might be raised to glory ; a love which embraced all mankind, as he shed his blood for the whole world, not even excluding from the price of his sacrifice those who put him to a cruel death ; a persevering love ; he was made man through love, and from the moment of his incarnation to his passion, he never ceased to love us ; he died to teach us his love ; he intercedes for us in heaven, in order that we may be qualified to love him for ever ; a most patient love, which loves in spite of our ingratitude, which waits for our conversion, which pursues us in our wanderings, and which brings us back rejoicing to the fold of love ; a love of exceeding power and efficiency, which triumphed over every obstacle, which subdued sin and hell, which arrested from death its sting, and from the grave its victory ; which exerts the most wonderful power and wisdom, that it may feed us with himself, and dwell with us for ever ; an immense, boundless, eternal, immutable love, to which the united loves of all creatures cannot bear the remotest resemblance, and which continually exhibits in our regard all the love of a most tender Father, of a most affectionate Brother, of a most sincere friend, of a most powerful and earnest Protector, of a most faithful good Shepherd, and constant Mediator. What a vast fund for reflection is not also to be found in the virtues of this adorable heart ? A heart of profound humility, of unalterable meekness, of entire obedience, of perfect, spotless purity ! In the words of a pi-

ous author,* " Let us take care to entertain in our souls, by oft-repeated acts, a constant devotion to the worship of the amiable heart of Jesus, which is overflowing with mercy and love. Let us be united to this divine heart by mutual love, and let us enter it in spirit. Let us through this heart implore all the graces which we require, and thro' it also offer all our actions to God. For we find the most valuable treasure and inestimable blessing in it. It is the gate through which we must go to God, and by which he comes to us. And therefore we would advise you to put in the various places you frequent, some devout image of this adorable heart, the sight of which may enable you to renew often your holy practices of devotion in his honour, and enkindle in you the fire of divine love. You may even, according to the interior inspiration of grace, kiss this image with the greatest affection. Enter in spirit to this deified heart of Jesus ; imprint in it your own, and plunge your whole soul into this sacred fountain with a longing desire that it should be entirely lost in it, and endeavour to fill your own heart with the spirit by which the heart of Jesus is animated, with its graces and virtues ; in a word, with all the salutary blessings it comprehends, and which are beyond all measure. For the heart of Jesus is an overflowing source of all good ; it is a pious and very useful practice to pay a singular worship and veneration to this adorable heart, which ought to be our refuge in our necessities, and in which we will find the comfort and assistance of which we stand in need. For, if the whole world were to abandon and deceive us, we may be assured that so faithful a heart as that of

* J. Lamps, *Catholic Prayer div. Amoris*, pag. 56.