



HOUR OF ADORATION

The Sacred Heart and the Sorrows of Mary.

The sufferings of the Heart of Jesus during the Passion were innumerable. They were not only those that sprang from mental anguish and physical pain, but those that He endured directly in His affections. He suffered from the friends who betrayed Him, forsook and denied Him, and, above all, was He afflicted by the abandonment of His Divine Father. But there was one other pain not less acute, and that was the presence of His most dear and beloved Mother, Mary most holy! If her presence was an heroic act of fidelity and, viewing it from this point, brought Him comfort and consolation, the Saviour suffered infinitely from the sight of the immense grief of the most innocent of Mothers, and from the knowledge that He himself was the cause of it. The compassion of Mary, in which was summed up all His own sufferings, came only from the Passion of Jesus. If we can affirm that the deepest wound in the Heart of Jesus is that which was dug into It by the abandonment of His Father, we need not hesitate to declare that next to it was the sorrow experienced at the sight of His holy Mother at the foot of the Cross. This subject, which so closely binds the Heart of Jesus with the Heart of Mary, both transpierced by the sword of the same sorrows, can not be too frequently meditated upon by souls truly devoted to the Sacred Heart, if they desire to delve into Its profound secrets.

I. — Adoration.

"There stood by the cross of Jesus His Mother," sometimes a little nearer, sometimes more removed, according as the movements of the crowd around the Cross or the caprice of the guards per-