

human language cannot describe it, nor finite intellect understand it.

He who loves desires to benefit the beloved. According to a sublime definition of love, the sentiment does not consist in seeking our joy in others, but in forming the happiness of those we love. *It is more blessed to give than to receive.* This was the manner in which Jesus Christ proved His love for man. *Greater love than this no man hath, that a man lay down his life for his friend.* To suffer death for another, and the most cruel and ignominious of deaths, is the strongest testimony of love. But so great was our Saviour's desire to give this proof of un-dying love that He speaks of being *strained* until it will be accomplished through His baptism of Blood. When dying amid inconceivable pains, our Lord exulted in the thought that men would know His mercy and tenderness, would be touched by His bounty and would respond to His affection. He thought also of the graces He would thus obtain for them and He found happiness in saying : " The more I suffer, the more Blood I shed, the greater will be the number of blessings and joys I will merit for the souls I love."

He thought of His Mother, the Immaculate one, so grand, so beautiful, so glorious in heaven and on earth. He rejoiced in suffering for her sake, because the shedding of His Blood was the principle of her dignity and privileges. He rejoiced also in thinking of the virgins whose purity and love would form His delight ; the martyrs who would shed their blood in return for His, the elect who would extol Him throughout the endless ages of eternity, because He had died for them.

All these fruits of His Passion filled His soul with consolation amid His sufferings, because He knew that it was through His Passion chiefly that he would gain our hearts.

Theologians tell us that this joy surpassed His sufferings. These great mysteries of faith stupefy, if we may so speak, our minds and hearts ; for when we see ourselves filled with sin and misery and yet remember that we are the object of that love, that delectation of Jesus Christ amid all His anguish, of that joy stronger than all the pains of death, how can we be otherwise than annihili-