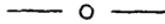


FRIENDSHIP WITH THE SACRED HEART.



THE reason why Jesus takes us so willingly for His friends, is the immensity, the greatness of His love.

Were it in a man's power to love each of his fellow-creatures like a father loves his child, that man would immediately consider all men his children, in order to enjoy the pleasure of loving and of being loved. The Heart of Jesus alone possesses that great privilege of love. Its affection is incommensurable. It loves each individual as if he was alone in the world. Holy Writ compares God's love for man to the sun's rays and heat which penetrate everywhere. Even that comparison falls short of the truth; for the ardent love burning in the Heart of the God-man would permit Him to love billions and trillions of creatures with the same intensity as He loves one.

Therefore, one may easily understand why a God so good and loving is constantly looking for friends. His heart must love; and He greets them with open arms, because He is sufficiently opulent to enrich all upon whom He bestows His affection. Supposing we possessed a heart large enough to love everyone equally and ardently, we would, on account of our poverty, naturally shrink from such vast friendship, for we would blush to love and be unable to give. But Jesus Christ is capable of loading with choicest favors all those who have the happiness of receiving His love and of giving their own in return. Consequently, it all depends upon me; Jesus is ever ready to greet me as His friend; if I so desire, I may immediately enter into His intimacy.

This is all the more feasible that Jesus is everywhere. Knowing nature's inconstancy and forgetfulness, would not a