

who, while proud of the prerogatives attributed by the Lord to the Temple of Jerusalem, believed that the dignity and grandeur of that vast structure could replace their own personal merit. "The Temple of the Lord!" cried they, at every instant, "the Temple of the Lord!"; and after having pronounced those words, they thought that they had nothing more to say or do. Thus might we be tempted to let our devotion consist in speaking of the Heart of Jesus and sounding Its praises, but leaving the practice of the virtues of the Sacred Heart out of our lives.

Fortunately, the real spirit of the devotion to the Sacred Heart is known to millions of Christians as a spirit eminently practical. Men have realized that the Heart of Jesus is the true temple of the Most High, the Holy of Holies, the source of all grace and all merit; and they do not rest satisfied with possessing a speculative knowledge of the devotion; they bring it into their lives; and their daily thoughts, words and actions feel the effects. "He who observes My Commandments," says our Lord, equivalently, "he loves Me truly" (Joan. xiv. 23). Any other love is only the phantasm of love: it is not the love that will lead us on to holiness on earth or to happiness during eternity. "Not every one that saith to me, Lord, Lord, shall enter the kingdom of Heaven, but that He that *doth* the will of my Father" (Matt. vii. 21).

With this practical knowledge of the devotion, nothing further is needed to justify the language of the Pontiffs quoted at the beginning of this Intention. Their words are strong and eloquent; but the very reasonableness of them soon becomes evident to any one who has rested for a while on the bosom of Jesus, and like St. John, has felt the pulsations of His Loving Heart.