

Month of August, consecrated to the Sacred Heart of Mary.

MEDITATION.

AUGUST 22.—*Violent shock received by the Sacred Heart of Mary, on meeting Jesus carrying his Cross.*

First Point—Consider that the Sacred Heart of Mary suffered a tremendous shock at the sight of her Son, Jesus, when just after his condemnation she saw Him bear on his shoulders the cross, on which he was to be crucified. She met him outside the city, according to St. Bonaventure, and nearly fell dead at the sight. This saint asks her, "Great Queen, were you not restrained by the sight of the crowd of people, and the multitude of the soldiers. No, does he himself reply, you paid no attention to them, because the immensity of your grief had in some manner torn out your heart. Mary, then, did force her way, and treading in the footsteps of her Son, mixed her tears with their bloody traces. What completed her anguish was the not being able to speak to or hear him, those who led him, urging him continually onward. But she said to him, interiorly, says St. Ephrem, "How do you bear this cross; how do you suffer these injuries, O, my beloved; why cannot I approach you, to give you the last embrace. Nor was *Jesus wanting in a reply. My love, my love, my beautiful one, said he, you have wounded my heart with one of your eyes.** O, what a martyrdom for these two hearts.

It is impossible that our heart is not dissolved by compassion, on witnessing so great a desolation, in the heart of Jesus, our Father, and Mary, our Mother, and will it not renounce its vicious inclinations, its criminal habits. O,

*Canticles.

my Jesus, take from my heart all love but your own, and give me a lively feeling of your, and your blessed Mother's woes.

Flower—The *Holy Stations* of the Cross.

Fruit—Empty your hearts of every thing terrestrial, cherish, but celestial desires.

MEDITATION.

AUGUST 23.—*The Sacred Heart of Mary crucified during the crucifixion of her Son.*

First Point—Consider how torturing to the Sacred Heart of Mary, were the strokes of the hammers, which buried the nails in the hands and feet of her blessed Son. Consider the deep wounds which this maternal heart received, on beholding, fastened to the cross, those feet, which had gone so often in search of the *lost sheep of the House of Israel*, and those hands which had never ceased dispensing benefits on the *House of Juda*. O, wonder says St. Bonaventure, Jesus is crucified in the interior of Mary, and all the torments, of the rack, says St. Bernardine, equalled not the pain occasioned to her thereby. As the love of his mother, says St. Augustine, surpassed that of all mothers, so in a proportionate degree, her pains.—In fine, as St. Laurence Justinian, says, she was wounded as deeply as she loved tenderly.

Why do we not experience some sorrow at witnessing the pains of such Son and such a Mother? Because we do not love. It would be impossible, if we loved, to behold unmoved a God made Man for our love, crucified for our love, and in presence of his Mother