

Not only did he become the disciple of Christ, but still more, an Apostle for his own family, his wife and two sons becoming fervent and celebrated Christians.

"Thus it happened that Simon Peter, not being where he should have been, another Simon took his place. It will be an eternal honor for the latter to have been associated so closely to the grand act of Expiation," How great courage, joy, and gratitude the ineffaceable remembrance of such assistance must have given him all the rest of his life !

How many Christians envy Simon's good fortune ! Ah well, that wood, which forms the spiritual fortune and honor of that poor stranger, that incomparable good is but the figure of that other good, a thousand times more precious, which is called a cross, a suffering. And this gift of the Sacred Heart, Jesus gives us daily. How many poor souls since Simon's time have been led to the light of Faith by the cross ! How many poor souls wandering along the road of pleasure and upon the point of being lost, have regained the way to heaven by the cross ! How many hearts that have forgotten God have found Him again by the cross ! How many have been preserved from the errors of passion by the cross ! The best guarded heart is, indeed, that guarded by trials ! How many sins have been shunned through the cross ! How many saints in heaven are indebted for their salvation to the cross ! Only an angel could rehearse to you what you personally owe to the cross. Make an examen, and lovingly thank Jesus for all the crosses of your life. They have been so many benefits for the salvation of your soul.

Yes, acknowledge it before the Saviour who, for love of you, bore on His shoulder the wood of your salvation, and on His Heart the heavy cross of your faults,—the cross is a gift, a pledge of His divine love. God chastises those whom He loves. This is of Faith. Doubtless, this will always be a scandal for the man of flesh and blood. He will never be able to comprehend the love that strikes and tortures. And yet the cross is, indeed, the love of the Father who strikes and cuts, in spite of the tears of his child, the gangrened member of the loved one