

Our Lord desires that we, too, should look at Him through His Heart. He does not wish our admiration to dwell on His omnipotence, His strength, or His majesty. The essential act of His being is love : *Deus charitas est*. It is, therefore, the charity of His Heart, which we must love.⁽¹⁾ And in our Lord's case, especially, the Heart is the measure of His excellence.

He has loved me : *Dilexit me!* cried St. Paul, in an ecstasy. St. John says : " We are those who have believed in the charity of Jesus Christ." To consider that love, with which the Heart of Jesus has loved us, and which alone explains the redemption, that charity with which He burned for His Father and for men, — is truly to know Jesus Christ.

It is by visible objects that we come to the knowledge of the immaterial. Therefore, God the Father, desiring that we should understand His love, sent to us His only begotten Son ; so also, the Son in order to reanimate our faith in His love, shows us His Heart of flesh.

" Behold *this Heart*, which has *so loved men!*" This Heart which is presented to us is, as it were, a vessel, filled and overflowing with love, and with It and in It, we adore that love.

Without doubt, we celebrate in all the feasts of our Lord, the manifestation of His love for His Father, and for man, — but none of these feasts were directed wholly and entirely to the worship of this love. Jesus Christ has willed that by a special feast, we should gather in, as it were, all His love, and through His Heart, offer it our adoration.

The devotion of the Sacred Heart is not directed towards any one of the attributes of the Man-God, nor yet to any of the mysteries of His life, but towards that which is the

(1) " You have called me, great God, Master, Lord, and you do well ; but I am also charity. Love is My name, and it is that which I desire that you should give me. There is nothing which pleases Me more, nor expresses so well, what I am with regard to man." (*Words of our Lord to Mary of the Incarnation, Foundress of the Ursulines in Canada, who died in 1672.*)