

Now, there is one primary truth, consoling beyond all else, which this attentive consideration of the Heart of Jesus brings out into a stronger light: it is that whatever happens to us here below, either in the order of nature or in the order of grace, is a gift of God proceeding directly from His love for us,—in other words, from His adorable Heart.

These gifts of God are truly without number. They surround us on every side, and our very lives are made up of them. The devotion to the Heart of Jesus teaches us how to determine them *mentally*, and, what is of far more importance, how to acknowledge them with our *heart*, practically by making a good use of them.

To make a good use of the gifts of God in the order of nature and in the order of grace is assuredly, in the times in which we live, to work strenuously to establish within ourselves and others the Kingdom of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

But now more than at any other time, our first efforts in that direction are thwarted by a formidable obstacle peculiar to the age, that very *egotism* denounced in such strong terms by our Holy Father Leo XIII in his recent admirable address to the delegates of the Apostleship:

“The devotion to the Sacred Heart,” he said, “as was revealed to Blessed Margaret Mary Alacoque, is pre-ordained for the healing of the great wound of modern society, which is *egotism*, the idolatry of self, the worship of the sensual self and of the pride of self, the intrusion of self into God’s place and self-assertion to the exclusion of the rest of mankind; so that to this self all is referred, and self usurps all the rights of God, of the Church and of man individual and social. It is this selfishness, in fine, which severs the bonds of the Christian home by assailing at once religion and morality, law and authority, property and family.”