

the doctrine which we have put forth already ? The Precious Blood is God's daily gift, nay, rather we might call it his incessant gift to us. For, if grace comes to us incessantly, it comes in view of the Precious Blood and because of it.

But who can estimate the wonderfulness of such a gift ? It is the Blood of the Son of God. It creates the supernatural life. The adorable majesty of the Undivided Trinity is an inexhaustible treasure-house of gifts. They are poured out upon us with the most affecting display of love. They are beautiful beyond compare, endlessly diversified and adopted to each heart and soul. Yet what gift do the Divine Persons give us, which has more of their own sweetness in it than the Precious Blood ? It has that yearning and tenderness which belong to the power of the Father, that magnificent prodigality which marks the wisdom of the Son, and that refreshing fire which characterizes the love of the Holy Ghost.

How adorable must be the exactness of his justice, how unattainable the standard of his sanctity, if the Precious Blood is to be the sole fitting ransom for the sins of men, the one divinely-chosen satisfaction to his outraged Majesty ? Yet what astonishing wisdom in such an invention, what a mysterious fondness of love !

The Precious Blood is a wonderful revelation of God, and also a marvellous revelation of the enormity of sin, which is another kind of revelation of God. It is by the height of his perfections that we measure the depths of sin. Its opposition to his unspeakable holiness, the amount of its outrage against his justice, and the intensity of his hatred of it, are manifested by the infinity of the sacrifice which he has required.

Our dearest Lord was impatient to shed his Blood. He longed to make his Father known, and so to increase his Father's glory. He knew that we must know God in order to love him, and then that our love of him would, in its turn, increase our knowledge of him. He yearned also with an unutterable love of us ; and this also entered into His Heart as another reason for his affectionate impatience, a stimulating desire for the shedding of his Blood.

With desire had he desired to communicate with his