

When the Wisdom of the Father came down on earth. He was born and brought up in the ranks of the poor. He who created all the riches of earth and possessed the riches of heaven *emptied Himself, taking the form of a servant*. He bequeathed His birthright to the poor. Theirs is the place of honor in the universal Christian family. For them especially He was sent by the Father. He preached the Gospel, and founded His Church. This has ever been the proud mark of His Church before the world that She is the Church of the poor. He made them a kind of Sacrament, a veritable Real Presence of Himself, which we have always with us, that He might accept as a personal offering to Himself the respect, love, and alms-gifts which we offer to them.

On the last day, He assures us, our sentence of eternal happiness or doom shall depend on the manner in which we have treated His poor. If there is any advantage at all for the rich in the race to heaven it lies in their being able to help the wretched. Their money, the very material of iniquity, shall be unto them a kind of eighth sacrament, shall receive a supernatural power and efficacy if they take care to invest a portion of it in charity. It will make unto them friends who on their death will receive them *into everlasting tabernacles*. What they place in the hand of the needy will be treasured up and multiplied, and given back with interest a hundredfold in the present life as well as in that to come. Such is the teaching of Christ, of the inspired Word and of the