

the horrible scourging. This did not suffice for His love. After death He would still testify to His infinite and God-like charity by fulfilling in Himself, in a sensible and corporal manner, the words of the bridegroom in the canticles : " Thou hast wounded my heart, my sister, my spouse." Hence the opening of His Heart by the soldier who, in the performance of this action which looks like a deed of unnecessary cruelty, was guided by a direct inspiration of Providence.

The stream of mingled Blood and water which issued from the cleft in our Lord's side typifies the Sacraments, especially that of baptism which cleanses our souls and makes us children of God ; it also symbolizes the Eucharist in which we receive the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.

Although the wound was inflicted by a special design of Providence, yet, the action itself demands reparation which can be made by lovingly compassionating the world's Victim on account of the heartless treatment to which He was subjected during life and even after death ; and by adoring those last Drops of Blood which spoke so eloquently of the strength and immortality of His love. Neither must we forget that every offence we have committed during life was a sword-thrust aimed directly at the Sacred Heart which for our sakes emptied itself of its Treasure—the Most Precious Blood. This thought should indeed arouse deep contrition, but it must also awaken the strongest confidence ; for what could be refused us after such manifestations of love ? Let us in all our sorrows, perplexities and temptations, and even in our temporal misfortunes, have immediate recourse to our crucified Lord and send up our petitions to heaven in the name of His Adorable Blood. One of the favors we should pray most earnestly to receive is that of generosity in God's service. Would it not be unsuitable and unjust if such a bountiful and magnanimous Master received from us a pitiful, half-hearted fealty ?

Our Redeemer did not reserve a single Drop of His Blood ; let us not withhold a drop of ours, but instead, devote our lives completely and irrevocably to God, giving Him all the affections of our hearts and even the blood