

come by familiar contact with Jesus-Christ during the many years they lived together ! The two disciples who were going to Emmaus, burned with divine love during the few moments in which they accompanied the Savior and heard him speak : « Is it not true, they said, that our hearts burned within us while he spoke to us on the way? » What then must we not think of the flames of holy charity that burned in the heart of Joseph during the thirty years he spent in the company of the Son of God, listening to the words of eternal life issuing from his lips and observing the perfect examples of humility, patience and obedience he gave while showing his anxiety to assist him in his work, and to serve him in all things in the house ? What a blaze of divine love must not all these flames have excited in the heart of Joseph, that heart so free from all earthly affection ! It is true that Joseph also greatly loved his holy spouse but his tenderness for Mary did not divide his heart as happens with married people in the world as the Apostle says : « He who has a wife is preoccupied with the things of the world ; he seeks to please his wife ; his heart is divided. » It was otherwise with Joseph : On the contrary, his affection for his holy companion increased his love for God. We cannot doubt that while living with Jesus-Christ, Joseph continued to advance in holiness and acquired such merits that we may say that they exceeded those of the other Saints.

Now, the apostle assures us that in the other world, Our Lord rewards each one according to his deserts. What therefore must be the glory He awards St. Joseph who loved him so and rendered him so many services during his life herebelow ! On the last day the Savior will say to the elect : « I was hungry and ye fed me ; I was athirst and ye gave me drink ; I was without shelter and ye sheltered me ; I was naked and ye clothed me. » And yet the other Saints will have fed, sheltered and clothed him merely in the persons of the poor, while St. Joseph procured food, lodging and clothing for the very person of Jesus-Christ. Moreover, the Lord promised a reward to whomsoever giveth to the poor, even a drink of water in His name. What then will be the reward of Joseph who can say to Jesus-Christ : « I not only gave you food, lodging and