

Saviour. For "*the charity of God is poured forth into our hearts by the Holy Ghost who is given to us.*" It is the sanctifying grace infused by the Holy Ghost into the heart which cements the union with its God. Human friendship has nothing similar. It is founded only on external acquaintance and the emotions and feelings arising from it. Divine friendship knits the soul to the Saviour closer than was David's to Jonathan, by an inward link, the indwelling spirit of God, infusing the light of a divine knowledge, the glow of a heavenly love, and participation of the divine nature. As the junk of iron, however black, heavy and cold, when thrown into the ardent fire becomes so penetrated with its substance and endowed with its properties, as to appear one thing with it, even so the soul in which the Holy Ghost has taken up his dwelling, into which he infuses his light and love by sanctifying grace, is lifted above itself and the whole order of nature, is divinized, supernaturalized, made capable of divine acts such as faith, hope and charity, by which it directly reaches God and is united to Him. The Christian is first baptized in "*fire and the Holy Ghost,*" and afterwards each additional degree of grace, every fresh meritorious act, each new sacrament, is accompanied by a special infusion and a more intense indwelling, according to the word of Our Saviour: "*If any one love me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and will make our abode with him.*"

You understand, I hope, dear Associate, that no human friendship can be compared with the friendship of Our Lord, that the realities of earth sink from view when confronted with the realities of heaven, that the facts of time pale before the facts of eternity.