

cious Lord ; and grant me, thy poor, needy creature, to feel sometimes, at least, in this holy communion, somewhat of thy tender, cordial affection:

That my faith may be more strengthened, my hope in thy goodness increased ; and that my love, once perfectly inflamed, after the tasting of heavenly manna, may never decay.

2. Thy mercy, O Lord, is able to give me the grace I desire, and to visit me with the spirit of fervour. For though I burn not with so great desires as those that are so singularly devoted to thee ; yet, by thy grace, I desire to have this great, inflamed desire ; praying and craving that I may partake with all such thy fervent lovers, and be numbered among them.

CHAPTER XIII.

That the Grace of Devotion is obtained by Humility, and renouncing ourselves.

THE VOICE OF THE BELOVED.

THOU oughtest to seek the grace of devotion fervently, to ask it earnestly, to expect it patiently and with confidence, to receive it gratefully, to keep it humbly, to work with it diligently, and to commit the time and manner of this heavenly visitation to God, until it shall please him to come unto thee. Thou oughtest chiefly to humble thyself, when thou feelest inwardly little devotion ; and yet not to be too much dejected.

God often giveth in a moment, that which he hath a long time denied. He giveth sometimes in the end, that which in the beginning of prayer he deferreth to grant. It is sometimes a little thing