

of his feet, according to custom, Mgr. Fatati, Secretary of Rites, Mgr. Fontini, Promotor of the Faith, Mgr. Minetti, Assessor of Rites, and Mgr. Gigli, Substitute of the Secretary of Rites. Then Mgr. Arnaldi, Voter of the Supreme Tribunal of the Signature and Postulator of the Cause, speaking in the name of the Order of the Visitation, and especially of the Nuns of Rome, returned thanks to His Holiness, not only for the decree which he had issued, but for his goodness in promulgating it in their monastery. His Holiness, in a benevolent reply, encouraged the Nuns in the exercise of the virtues practised by the venerable Sister, rigidly to observe the rules of their institute recommending them above all, to ask of God that those among them who were occupied with the instruction of youth might be animated with a true spirit of charity and holy zeal. His Holiness then admitted to the ceremony of kissing his feet the postulator of the Cause, M. Bartoleschi, Advocate of the Cause, and M. Carleni, Procureur; then Her Royal Highness the Princess of Saxony all the Nuns and other ladies and other persons who had obtained the privilege of admission to the monastery. His Holiness again conversed with the Nuns, to whom he granted several spiritual graces. Descending the staircase, he was agreeably surprised to see already in its place a stone tablet recording his visit on the 2nd of July to celebrate mass in the convent church and his promulgation within the convent of the decree of which we have just spoken. After having paid his homage of adoration to the Holy Sacrament in the church, His Holiness returned to the Quirinal saluted by the acclamations of the people who filled the streets

A DISCOURSE

ON THE

SACRED HEART OF MARY:

ADDRESSED TO

THE RELIGIOUS OF THE VISITATION IN PARIS

BY THE

REV. PERE M'CARTHY, S. J.

[Translated from the French by a Religious of the Presentation.]

A DISCOURSE

ON

DEVOTION TO THE HEART OF MARY.

Amongst pure creatures, there is one so highly privileged, so far elevated by grace above all others, that she is designated by the holy Scripture, sometimes the daughter, at other times the sister, or spouse of the Most High: *Filia Regis, soror, sponsa*: again, the unequalled masterpiece of his

all-powerful hands. This beloved daughter of the King of Heaven, this august Queen of the universe is MARY. Yet if I seek in her any exterior or apparent mark of this incomparable greatness, I find none: I see only a poor and modest virgin, who has united her lot to that of a humble artizan, who supports himself by the work of his hands, and lives remote from men, in profound obscurity.—Where is then this glory so celebrated in the sacred Scriptures, and in the Canticles of the Church? You have just now heard it described. It is all interior and concealed; it is enclosed in her heart: *Omnis gloria ejus filia regis ab intus*. But in this heart what treasures do I not discover! All the perfections of the angels and saints, and in such a degree of excellence, that nothing even in heaven can be compared with them. What do I say? They are the perfections of God himself, as faithfully retraced as they can possibly be, in a simple creature. It is just, then, that we render to this sacred heart, a tribute of veneration and love; and as we adore the heart of Jesus, because it is that of a God, so it is proper that we honour the heart of Mary, because it is after that of her Son, the worthiest sanctuary in which the Divinity has ever dwelled.

Such, my dear Sisters, are the grounds of a devotion sanctioned and extensively established in the Church these two centuries; and such is the object of the feast you celebrate this day; an impressive feast, on which virgins consecrated to the Lord come to present their prayers to the heart of the purest, the most fervent of virgins, whom they invoke as their patroness, love as their mother, and endeavour to imitate as their model. May the instruction you are about to hear animate your zeal, and heighten your esteem for a devotion so holy! May these sentiments be shared by all who are present at this pious ceremony!

Without intending directly to justify the homage which we render to the heart of Mary, and which is sufficiently justified by the suffrage of the Church I will endeavor to prove, in such a manner, the reasonableness the advantages, and value of it, that every truly Christian soul may conceive a still stronger affection for it, and find new consolation in its practice.

This discourse shall be a simple and familiar eulogium on the heart of this sacred Virgin; and I intend to show, by three short reflections, how worthy it is of our devotion:

First: For the perfections with which it is adorned.

Secondly: For the intimate relations that unite it to God.

Thirdly: For the love with which it burns for us.

This is the entire subject which shall claim your attention.