

souls.

This was the mission foretold of Him by Isaiah: "He shall feed His flock like a shepherd: He shall gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom. (Isai. XL.,: 11.)

In one of His parables, in S. Luke's Gospel (XV.), He compares His anxiety about a sinner-in-sin and His joy at his conversion, to the rejoicing of the man who leaves ninety and nine sheep in the wilderness while he goes to seek and to save one that is lost. "When he hath found it he layeth it on his shoulders rejoicing."

There are many interpretations of this parable, and it is clearly intended to have manifold applications. Many of the Fathers do not confine the scene of its action to this world alone.

Our Lord left the ninety and nine angels who kept their first estate and came down from heaven to seek, in the human race, the sheep that had gone astray, and wandered from the fold into which they were brought by their creation. He calls together His friends and His neighbours when He resumes His seat on the right hand of God in His glorified Humanity. His own praises and the praises of the Father are sung by the angels and the redeemed saints which John saw in a vision, and whose voices of ten thousand times ten thousand he heard singing "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches—glory and blessing."

Then there is a more particular application of the teaching of this parable. Our Lord is represented as