

## IV. — Prayer.

Jesus confronted this heartfelt sorrow to sustain by His example the courage of those children upon whom God imposes duties and from whom He demands sacrifices which cannot be made without causing great anguish to their mothers.

It is not ingratitude that in such cases makes tears course down the cheeks of those mothers so loved and venerated ; it is the superior right of divine love to which, when it pleases God, every other love, however legitimate, must be sacrificed. Jesus, when a Child, did not hesitate to leave His Mother in tears and disquietude when His Divine Father, in order to affirm His sovereign rights, commanded Him to do so without saying adieu. Nor did He hesitate to expose her to the horrible tempest of His Passion, although He might so easily have closed her eyes as He did St. Joseph's before casting Himself into the ocean of suffering. Jesus acted thus in order to give to children who are, by duty to their country, a religious vocation, or a call to the apostolate, obliged to leave their mother. If their heart shrinks, if the tears of one so venerated weaken their resolution and tempt them to recoil, let them look upon this admirable Son who immolated His Mother to the glory of God and the salvation of the world. That glance will strengthen them to accomplish their sacrifice will fortify them against after-thoughts of tender regret.

O Christ Jesus, perfect Son of Mary, and Model of all good children. Thou who didst love us even to sacrificing Thy own Mother, be Thou forever blessed ! Be Thou loved and served by the total sacrifice of all that we hold most dear, if it should please Thee to demand it of us ! I press my lips to the Wound opened in Thy Heart by Thy love for Mary, desiring to find therein with the strength never to refuse Thee anything, the balm necessary to dress the wounds that the sacrifice of its dearest loves may open in my heart !

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#### THE MADONA. 1

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*Within the holy temple dim  
A maiden kneels at prayer.  
"Ave Maria," An angel's voice  
Falls on the listening air.*

*O blessed words since time began !  
The maiden hearts and God is man.*

*More stainless than the lily white.*

*That Gabriel brings to thee,  
More dazzling than the morning light,  
Thy spotless chastity ;*

*Within thy pure heart's chalice cell,  
The grace of God doth sweetly dwell.*

*O thou fair morning Star of hope !  
That rose from out earth's night—  
Thou beautiful Dawn precursor of  
The glorious King of light—  
Thy tender soul's most ardent sighs  
Hath drawn the Savior from the skies.*

1 See frontispiece.