

I was appointed to a Church, and to my surprise when I got there, my friend was waiting to welcome me. Again we were together. But there was one day every year that I did not see him; he went away on that day. It was in memory of an event in his life that he sacredly kept this day each year. However, were I sick, he would come to see me, even on that day. So you see how great was that friendship for me; it made me what I am, a priest. Now, I have told you the whole story, but I have not told you my friend's name. It was Jesus. He was with me all through life, He is with me now and I am sure He will be with me when I am dying. The one day on which He used to leave me was Good Friday. So it is that friendship, the friendship of Christ that we are to seek in this life, and once acquired to keep in life, in death, and in eternity. "He came unto His own, and His own received Him not." Many a door has been slammed in His Sacred Face, many a heart has closed itself tight to His grace, and many a soul has gone into the valley of death without Him.

There He is to-day looking at us from His throne, arms outstretched, welcoming us in word and in gesture to His Sacred Heart. No heart ever loved like His Heart, no mouth ever spoke words like His, no friend ever loved as this Friend. And yet we do not all receive Him!

Hours and hours, days and days, weeks and years we have kept Him standing at the gate. "Behold, I stand at the gate and knock, and no one has answered." We have done that, yes, you and I, and more than once. Are we to continue so?

Are we above friendship? Are we different from the rest of men? No, indeed. We need a friend just like every one else. "It is not good for man to be alone." Almighty God realized that when He created Eve to be a companion to Adam. There are plenty who will be our friends, but we can not trust them. To-day they are with us, to-morrow against us. "Jesus Christ yesterday, to-day and forever." No change in Him. "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my word shall not pass away." His word is enough. If He calls you friend, then you need worry no longer. He is yours, and yours forever, unless you change it yourself. Will every one who is here this month be here next month? Can our Sacramental Friend look for us