

inex. resible sorrow to the Heart of our Lord, as He has more than once made it known to us. In one of His apparitions to Blessed Margaret Mary, He complains bitterly of the ingratitude of those who should be near and dear to Him. "Behold the Heart which has loved men so much that It has spared nothing, even to exhausting and consuming Itself, in order to testify Its love ; and in return I receive from the greater part nothing but ingratitude, by reason of the contempt, irreverence, sacrilege, and coldness which they show Me in the sacrament of My love." It was during this vision that the institution of the feast of the Sacred Heart was commanded as a day of reparation.

Reparation appeals strongly to all fervent souls, and Christ expects it from us. If we are looking for motives why we should be moved to undertake this work, we shall find that justice alone would be one sufficiently cogent. After all, Christ was not obliged to do all He did for us. He might have left us to shift for ourselves after we had, for the first time, misused our free will and betrayed Him. But the clemency of His Heart made Him offer Himself a victim of love for our sake, and were we to give Him our hearts, as He wishes them, and spend our lives in reparation of our sins, we should be only filling a measure of justice.

But there is a nobler motive than justice to animate any work of this kind that we may undertake. Our Lord desires us to imitate Him, and to let the motive of our atonement find its source in His love. It was love that was the mainspring of His relations with us. One day He addressed Margaret Mary anent the outrages which men were pouring out on Him, and while exhorting her to make reparation, He said : " If men made Me some return for My love, I should think but little of all that I have done for them. Do thou, at least, give Me this consolation, by supplying for their ingratitude as far as thou art able." It was then that He commanded her to receive Him in Holy Communion as