

Blood. Yes, let us bewail our negligence in profiting by such a source of grace. In order to experience Its sweetness and strength, we must renounce all the seductions of the world and the demon : " You cannot partake of the chalice of the Lord and the chalice of devils." (1 Cor. X).

Let us be animated with the most ardent desire of drinking the wine Jesus has prepared for us : " Come drink the wine which I have mingled for you." (Prov. IX).

The graces attached to it indicate Our Lord's desire that we should use it. He said to Saint Lutgarde, pointing to His body exhausted of Blood :—" Listen to the voice of this Blood which solicits you not to allow it to be shed in vain."

O let us correspond to His great love and make a holy use of the Precious Blood. Nothing is more calculated to increase charity in the soul than these considerations.

" He brought me into the cellar of wine ; He set in order charity in me." (Cant. II. 4). There, bathed in Christ's Blood, our lips to His opened side, we drink love itself, but a strong, generous love, a love which will make us desire suffering, and long to shed our blood for Him. " You have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin." (Heb. XII. 4). Let us, at least, in return for His Blood, shed our sweat in laboring for His interests, and our tears of repentance and love. May Jesus, the fruit of a virginal vine, be loved by you on account of His Blood.

O Priests of Jesus Christ, how often have we not received the Precious Blood ! How often raised to our lips the chalice of salvation ! We are moistened, saturated with the Adorable Blood, and, yet, have our stains been effaced ? Has the ardor of vicious inclinations been extinguished ? Do we experience the salutary effects of the fluid which nourished our God's corporal life ? Are we full of strength against temptation ? Have we a disgust for worldly joys and an ever growing thirst for this delicious draught ? After drinking from the fountain-head of sanctity, are we holy ? . . . Let us humble ourselves, lament . . . and implore pardon.

Lord, if I owe Thee gratitude for having given me