

of Assisium, "Let us love the little Babe of Bethlehem.

MEDITATION.

AUGUST 13.—Grief of the Sacred Heart of Mary at the circumcision.

First Point.—Consider the cruel anguish of the Sacred Heart of Mary, when, for the first time, she saw flow the blood of her infant Jesus. No mother on earth ever experienced the like, even at the death of her only son, because no son was worthy of such love, and no mother so capable of loving.—Her heart was at that moment wounded so much the more deeply, as she loved the more intensely. It was a miracle that she did not expire; her natural strength being certainly insufficient to sustain her. This grief was permanent, the Sacred Heart of Mary being incessantly torn by all the torments which she foresaw Jesus was to suffer, nor did it cease but at its resurrection.

They are my sins which put the circumcising knife in the hands of the High Priest to inflict a deep wound in the spotless flesh of Jesus. They are my iniquities which drenched with bitter grief the most pure and innocent Heart of Mary. How can I repair them, sweet Jesus, but by this precious blood which I have caused to be shed. Ah, wash me in it from my stains, purify me in it from my filth; I detest, I abhor them.

Flower—Guard of the senses, and say the Miserere.

Fruit—Horror of the least sin.

MEDITATION.

AUGUST 14.—Maternal Solicitude

of the Sacred Heart of Mary at the flight to Egypt.

First Point—Consider the inquietude and agitation of the Sacred Heart of Mary, when in the middle of the night she is suddenly commanded to rise and fly into Egypt with her divine infant to preserve him from the fury of those who sought his life. Agar abandoned her son Ismael, in order not to see him die; not so with Mary, she forgets herself to save her son; she clasps him in her arms, covers him as well as her poverty would allow, and flies off with an agitated and palpitating heart, through bye-paths and lonely roads, without regarding either suffering, or fatigue, as long as she can hope to secure him. St. Joseph, her faithful companion and guide could alone tell us what Mary endured on this occasion.

Many, like Herod, seek Jesus in order to destroy him. It is the case of all who commit mortal sin. O my God, how often have I thus sought you by seeking out the occasion of sin. Pardon me, I beseech you, by the loving solicitude of your Blessed Mother for your preservation. I shall ever avoid the dangerous occasions of offending you.

Flower—A visit to our Blessed Mother's oratory.

Fruit—Flight of dangerous occasions.

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