

acle at the marriage feast ; and from the cross did He not commend the Disciple of His Sacred Heart to her special keeping? How can we honor the Mother without coming more and more worthy of the friendship of the Son? What is true of the Mother must be true of the Spouse and the Sovereign Pontiff, her visible head. We have to reflect but for a moment that the Roman Pontiff is the Vicar of Christ, the official representative of His work and interests in the world, to understand that every mark of devotion, were it only a decade of the beads, which we pay the Pope is an additional recommendation to the love and friendship of the Son of God.

Finally, what is the Third Degree but the return of friendship which He himself asked, the mark of sympathy He claimed from His friends, in order to make up for the coldness and ingratitude shown and the insults offered Him. Even apart from the intention, is it not the proper effect of Holy Communion to cement the union of sanctifying grace between the soul and the Son of God, not only by diminishing the inclination to slight faults and taking away the consent to grievous sin, but especially by nourishing it with a divine bread? Each communion of atonement therefore, besides being the pledge of everlasting life and the bread of immortality, is a fresh claim on the special love and friendship of the Saviour.

Add to this the fact of being enrolled in the League of the friends of Jesus under the banner of His Sacred Heart, of making open profession of His faith and of zeal for His interests ! No wonder there should be ever going up from the ranks of the League a chorus of thanksgivings for special and marvellous graces received by its members. All that the various *Messengers* can note each month is but a few chance echoes reaching out from and beyond the full choir of praise ascending from grateful hearts to the Divine Benefactor. Doubt it not, dear Associate, that the Holy League confers upon us special claims to the friendship of Our Lord.