

nation : " Jesus," says Saint Paul, " that he might sanctify " the people by his own blood, suffered without the gate " (Heb. 13-2.). By shedding his Blood Jesus purchases his own Church, and he makes pure and holy that Church to which all men are called, which extends everywhere, and which will last until the end of the world : " which he hath purchased with his own blood." Acts 20:28.)

That acquisition of the Church by the Saviour, Saint Paul is pleased to describe when writing to the Ephesians: " Christ loved the Church and delivered himself up for it : " that he might sanctify it, cleansing it by the laver of the " water in the word of life. That he might present it to " himself a glorious Church not having spot or wrinkle or " any such thing, but that it should be holy and without " blemish." (Eph. V : 25-27.)

All that sanctifying work is the fruit and blossom of his Blood ; his Blood is the germ and seed ; It is endowed for ever with an inexhaustible fruitfulness, It unceasingly preserves life in the whole body of the Church, that intimate, supernatural life which comes from heaven and conducts to it.

VI. THE BLOOD OF JESUS IS OUR STRENGTH IN COMBATting.

Our life upon earth, says the Holy Ghost, is a warfare ; a terrible warfare against powerful enemies ; a warfare sovereignly important since our eternal interests depend upon the result thereof ; a decisive warfare. for the end of it will determine whether we shall be happy or miserable for all eternity. In that struggle the Blood of Jesus is our strength, our most solid and most constant stay, our invincible support. The following passage is the most glorious proof of that truth ; it is also taken from Saint John : " And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying : " Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom " of our God, and the power of his Christ : because the " accuser of our brethren is cast forth, who accused them " before the throne of God day and night. And they " overcame him by the blood of the lamb, and by the " word of the testimony, and they loved not their lives " unto death. Therefore rejoice, o heavens, and you that " dwell therein."

(Apoc. XII, 10-12).