

more meritoriously all the rest ; what a mint of satisfaction is thus placed in our hands !

Apart from those works wherein our personal actions and merits play the principal part, the Church puts at our disposal the treasury of the merits and expiations of Jesus Christ. Indulgences are only the superabundant satisfactions of the great Victim. Oh ! that we had the charity to work with their sweet instrumentality ! They are given to us with such inexhaustible liberality, while they constitute the largest and easiest way of communion towards the regions of the other life. In order to mark the source whence they flow, the church places to the gaining of every indulgence one essential condition, namely, communion, desiring we should find in our union with Jesus the right to draw from His wealth ; in fact, so that we may distribute some, she gives us the plenitude. How well won and how well accepted is the indulgence based on a pure and fervent communion.

If then our heart responds to the mournful cry of these dear departed, exiled from heaven and debarred for a while from God, the object of their yearning ; if it sorrows at the thought of their anguish, let us offer them by prayer and especially by communion proofs of efficacious compassion. Holy Mother Church, who mourns with them because she is a mother, invites us thereto in many ways.

Some years ago, our Holy Father Pope Leo XIII, approved and indulgenced a short prayer, a summary of our means of action for the relief of the suffering souls, giving among them to Eucharistic communion, the place of honor It deserves. Let us say it every day this month :

#### PRAYER.

Sacred Heart of Jesus, grant, I beseech Thee to the souls in Purgatory eternal rest ; to those who shall die to-day the final grace, to sinners true repentance, to pagans the light of faith, to me and mine Thy blessing. To Thy most loving Heart, O Jesus, I commend all those souls, and for them I offer Thee all Thy merits with those of Thy Blessed Mother and of the angels and saints, and all the masses, communions, prayers and good works performed this day throughout the Christian world.

Ind. 100 days, daily. (Brief 13 March, 1901.)