

Subject of Adoration

Jesus Dies on the Cross.

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Et hæc dicens, inclinato capite, emisit spiritum.

"And saying this, bowing His head He gave up the ghost."

(JOHN XIX, 30.)

I.—ADORATION.

(Continued.)

At the same time that He is Priest upon the Cross, Jesus is also the Victim. That man should be saved, a *victim for sin* was needed, who should reconcile him with God, restoring to him the divine friendship along with innocence of soul. He had need of a *peaceful victim*, who would maintain that friendship and render staunch that purity of soul. He had need of a holocaust, the transformation and, as it were, the annihilation of what he had been in order to become a new and divine creature in the communion of glory. This was precisely the work that the Saviour accomplished on the Cross.

Jesus became the *Host*, the *Victim* of humanity. He offered Himself as a victim for sin. The decree of our condemnation, our *death-warrant*, the fatal contract which delivered us to sin, to the demon, and to death, was torn to pieces and victoriously *nailed to the Cross*.

Jesus is the peaceful Host—"He Himself is our peace." He it is who has "*reconciled us to God by His Blood*." He will be for regenerated humanity the Source of all grace, love, virtue, and glory. By the act of His death, Jesus be-