



Love of Jesus Towards us in the Holy Eucharist

"You are my friends." — ST. JOHN, XV. 14.

THE sacrament of the altar," says St. Thomas Aquinas, "is the expression of the greatest love God could give us."

Everything, in fact, speaks to us therein of the immense love of Jesus Christ towards men: the circumstances in which He instituted it, the sentiments which animated His Divine heart, the excellence of the gift He has bestowed on us, His designs in instituting it, the state to which He is reduced;—everything therein reminds us of these words of St. John: Jesus, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end."

He loved men with a constant generous love which nothing could weaken; with a love which showed itself greatest at the very moment when He encountered the most hatred and ingratitude.

It was not when the people whom He had fed with a miraculous bread wanted to make Him King, that the Divine Saviour instituted His Sacrament; it was not on the day of His triumphal entrance into Jerusalem when the multitude received Him with acclamations and blessings; but on the very night when He was going to be delivered up, when the infamous Judas had already sold Him, when the wicked Synagogue was ordering His arrest, and preparing for His death while His enemies were preparing the manacles, the scourges, the nails, the cross, all the instruments of His Passion. Yes, it was when the ingratitude of men towards Him was at its height, that He favored them with the most signal of His favors.