

curses the world, that blights the beauties and mars the harmonies of God's creation. It is the enemy of God, the curse and ruin of man. It drove our first parents from Paradise, and excludes all who remain guilty of it, from the Kingdom of Heaven.

Our Blessed Saviour Jesus Christ came down from heaven to redeem and save us from the guilt and curse of sin. By his sufferings and death he made superabundant atonement to the justice of God for the sins of men. He died that we might have eternal life. The slaves of Satan, he purchased us from this awful servitude, and gave in ransom for us a great price—even that of His most precious blood. One drop of that adorable blood would have been sufficient to redeem ten thousand guilty worlds, and yet He poured out the full tide of His life-blood, in expiation and atonement for human guilt. The divine Victim was offered on Calvary, but the blood of that victim overflowed the world in its saving tide, and washed the shores of all the ages. But our Blessed Saviour, who redeemed us without our co-operation, will not save us without our co-operation. We are free agents, and the ways of life and death stretch out before us. We must, ourselves, presented and assisted by divine grace, choose the way of life, if we would reach and enjoy life everlasting in heaven. Our loving Saviour has, in His divine mercy and goodness, placed within our reach the most powerful means of grace, which, if we employ, will enable us to work out our salvation and to reach one day God's blessed kingdom of infinite joys and everlasting happiness. These means of grace are chiefly prayer, the sacrifice of the Mass, and the Sacraments. These great institutions of Christ's infinite mercy and compassion are accessible to all—the gentle, the simple, the learned and the unlearned, the rich and the poor, the just and the sinful,—they are within the reach of all, and are for all the children of God who are still wayfarers here below.

Let us exhort you therefore, dearly beloved brethren, to make use, at all times, but especially during the holy season of Lent, of those means of grace that God has so mercifully placed within your reach and at your disposal. "Behold now is the acceptable time, now are the days of salvation." (St. Paul, 2 Cor. vi. : 2).