

descend on the reconciled earth, He gives free course to His filial confidence, and begs His Father to receive all sinners to the grace of forgiveness. That His prayer might be more favorably received, He did not say: «*My God. My God.*» as a few moments ago, but «*Father!*» He takes God by the Heart. How could He fail to be heard favorably?

And God is eager to grant the desire of His Son's Heart. His arms at once extend toward us, and He presses us to His bosom with His Divine Son. O Father, I thank Thee for having heard the prayer of our Divine Redeemer! Jesus, I thank Thee for having made it with so much love and fervor!

Thanks to Thy prayer, O well-beloved Saviour, my soul will wing its way to rest, not in the bosom of Abraham, but in the hands, on the Heart of Thy Divine Father and of Thy own. Before Thou didst pronounce that word, souls of the most just had to descend to Limbo, where the sight of God was indefinitely deferred. And this fear of a state so miserable, while filling their life with bitterness, says Saint Paul, rendered them melancholy, and kept them in the horrors of a cruel slavery. But since Thou didst say to Thy Father: «I place in Thy hands the souls of My faithful ones at death»,.....from that moment, souls just and purified, hardly separated from the body, travel the same road, reach the same term as Thy own most holy soul, and rest in the hands, yes, even on the bosom of God. I thank Thee, O Divine Saviour, for all the souls that have already had that blessed experience! I thank Thee in advance for this same grace which Thou hast merited for me, and which Thou wilt give me if I am faithful to Thee unto death!

Thanks to Thy prayer, O well-beloved Saviour, our souls are no longer the demon's, since Thy Divine Father has accepted them from Thee as a sacred deposit! Can my soul ever thank Thee sufficiently for having freed it from such slavery? After so sweet an assurance, shall it not vehemently desire to go and find Thy holy soul? Shall I not repeat Saint Paul's words: «I desire to be dissolved and to be with Christ!»

It is by the Eucharist, that is, by Thyself, by the gift of Thy soul to my soul, that Thou dost make me share in the immense benefits of Thy divine prayer. It is by Communion that Thy most holy soul communicates to mine, so miserable, all the divine qualifications that will permit it to be received at death by Thy Divine Father. I thank Thee, Jesus, I thank Thee, for having so often and so generously given me Thy soul with all its perfections. What can I give Thee in return for so great a love? This soul that Thou didst come to save,