

Him in the difficult work of our salvation and sanctification of souls. He asks us to co-operate with Him in the work of His Church, and the labors of His Apostles. He still says : " I do not wish the death of sinners, but their conversion, — their eternal salvation. I seek the wandering sheep ; help Me to reclaim them. By the labors which I have endured for you, by those wounds which I have received, by My love for you, stronger than hatred and ingratitude, unite your efforts with Mine, for the salvation of souls." Listen to this language, pious souls, adorers and disciples of the Heart of Jesus. If our Saviour has willingly borne for your sake every humiliation, abasement and sacrifice, would you refuse those slight sacrifices which He requires of you, in order to become His co-laborers in this sublime work ? No ; when God deigns to associate us in the work of redemption, we will not refuse ; prostrating ourselves, we will adore and kiss His sacred hand, saying : " I thank Thee, my God, for the honor which Thou hast bestowed upon me, in presenting to me this occasion of giving Thee pleasure." Thus does Jesus teach us the duty and practice of zeal.

There is a lay apostolate which is an auxiliary or supplement of the sacerdotal office. Lay Christian zeal has existed in every age. The Church, founded on the devotion of Jesus Christ and the martyrs, has always preserved this character of its Divine institution. It has continued to be the home of generous aspirations. Motives for exercising this zeal are abundant, and it will suffice briefly to enumerate them. In a religion wherein the reign of charity is essential, there is no room for egotism.

Our first, and indispensable obligation is to love God ; but what is the most direct effect of the love of God in the soul ? Should it not be to conform our sentiments with His ? Now what is it that God detests ? It is sin. What is it that He wills and desires ? The glory of His name and the salvation of souls. If, therefore, we love God, we will use