

The moment came in 1873, when Father Victor Drevon, the Apostle of the Communion of Atonement, appealed to the whole world to go to Paray-le-Monial, and there at the very fountain-head of the devotion, draw ineffable graces in abundance. The voice of the venerable apostle was not raised in vain. Two hundred thousand pilgrims from all quarters of the globe, moved by the spirit of God, went thither in 1873 to atone for the sins of men and to ask favors for themselves and their nations on the spot sanctified by the presence of the Saviour.

Paray is one of those places that appeals to a pilgrim's sentiments of religion and piety. It was there that Christ our Lord drew aside the veil that hides Himself from us and appeared as He did at Bethlehem. He taught there as He did at Jerusalem ; He spoke as He did on the Mount ; shone as He did on Thabor. Whatever may have been the nature of His Presence, no place in this universe since the death of the Saviour had been so favored, nowhere such divine manifestations of a social and universal character reproduced.

What manifestations these were ! Christ our Lord opened up His Sacred Heart, and flames surged forth from that burning furnace of love, to set on fire the hearts of those who would, in after centuries, be privileged to kneel at the altar of the Apparitions.

Not since the Crusades was such enthusiasm shown in France as in 1873. On June 20th of that year, thirty thousand pilgrims and two thousand priests were present at Paray. The Bishop of Autun, Mgr. de Laseleuc, read an Act of Consecration which was interrupted frequently by the voices of the vast multitude confirming it, at every moment, by the exclamation, " O Jesus ! Thou shalt be our King ! " On the 29th of the same month, fifty members of the French Chamber of Deputies, representing two hundred of their colleagues in the National Assembly, reached Paray to renew their protestation of loyalty to Christ their king.