

First Point.—St. Magdalene thus relates, in one of her ecstasies, the last secret interview of Jesus with Mary:—"God is great; the secrets communicated by the Divine Spouse of our souls to Mary are great. O, Mary! the entertainment of your Son with you before his Passion, was one of conformity, that after his Resurrection was one of joy, that previous to his Ascension was one of glory. But what subject, then, did you converse on, O, Mary—was it the Word as Spouse of Virgins, and encompassed by virgins?" Yes; since you were a virgin, and quite in love with virginity, your delight must have been to converse about virgins.

Consider now what strength and consolation the Heart of the Queen of Virgins must have derived from a conversation so honorable to the spouses of Jesus Christ, and imagine yourself in the train of this Divine Redeemer, when after it, he walked with his Blessed Mother and Disciples to Olivet. On arriving there, he takes leave of the former, and bidding farewell to, and blessing them all, he separated from them, and was carried up into Heaven, until a cloud took him out of their sight. Who can conceive the transports of Mary at this triumphant sight. She continued for a long time to gaze on it, intently admiring that Sacred Body, formed in her chaste womb, now more brilliant than 10,000 suns, ascending to the celestial empire. But her Heart followed him still farther than her eyes, even to Heaven, where he is seated at the right hand of God.

The Church exhorts us at the Holy Mass to lift up our hearts, and we answer we have lifted them up to the Lord.—Do we say true. If we be risen with Christ, as St. Paul says, let us seek the things that are above, where Christ is

sitting at the right hand of God, and as the Church prays, fix our hearts where alone are true joys. O, my Jesus, captivate my poor heart, and hold it ever united to yours, and that of your blessed Mother. By the love wherewith you filled her heart at your Ascension; may nothing on earth ever more possess it.

Flower—Say often "Draw me, O Lord, and we shall run after the odor of your ointments."

Fruit—Keep your heart and mind fixed upon God.

MEDITATION.

AUGUST 30.—*The Sacred Heart of Mary, an ocean of Grace, at the descent of the Holy Ghost.*

First Point—Consider with what profusion the Holy Ghost communicated himself to Mary his cherished spouse beyond all the others assembled in the cenacle. The angel found her full of grace; at the incarnation she received a new and abundant increase of grace, but the Holy Ghost at Pentecost enriched her with his divine gift, much more plentifully, for he not only came to, but over her, according to Gabriel, *super-veniet in te*. It would be impossible for us to try to comprehend the degree in which this increased love of the Father and the Son, communicated his gifts to Mary, already superabundantly replenished with them. Imagine an ocean of grace, and a deluge still greater of graces, falling from Heaven on it, and you may form some idea of it. St. Epiphanius, &c., attributes to Mary the descent of the Holy Ghost on the apostles, and all mankind to produce the fruit of faith in them.

We have received grace that is Bap-