

shadow of a sin, nevertheless faith tells us that she was re-deemed and that all the graces she received, her divine Maternity included, were purchased by Jesus. In the Office of the Immaculate Conception, the church says: "O God, who in view of the death of Thy Son didst preserve this Virgin from all stain of sin;" clearly proving her Immaculate Conception to be the supreme merit of the blood that Jesus shed, the apogee of the Redemption, the superhuman feat of a Saviour's love.

Yes, verily, it was Mary before all others that Jesus came to save. She who was His first love, His first thought was also to be His first and dearest conquest and in consequence He suffered incomparably more for her than for all others combined. She has not received a single grace since her Immaculate Conception, which was the first of all graces, and in Redemption's plan the most excellent, she will not receive any in the course of her wonderful existence which was not the price and the principal price of the Blood shed by Jesus. Judge then if Mary blesses Jesus for the Redemption and if we can discharge our own debt of thanksgiving more perfectly than by uniting with her in blessing our Divine Redeemer.

IV. — Prayer.

"And blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus!" According to God's thought, in Scriptural language, every blessing is a promise of fecundity. God said to Abraham: "In thee shall be blessed all the families of the earth." This blessing transmitted from Patriarch to Patriarch has but one object: to give children until cometh the One called the "Desired of Nations."

The Angel said to Mary: "Blessed art Thou," meaning: Thou wilt be a Mother, adding: "among women," to signify that among other glories would be that of the children of all women becoming her children also.

What, then, should we desire, what should be the real meaning of our prayer when we bless Jesus? That the number of God's children increase and multiply, that we ardently desire the coming of Jesus Kingdom and that all we ask is to work and suffer for this twofold purpose in union with Jesus and Mary. Amen.

