

judge was not competent to judge of the Divine Sonship of Jesus, he was, however, able to decide whether or not the culprit deserved death. In condemning the innocent, he sinned gravely, and in the tribunal of history, his name has ever since been held in execration.

They who had delivered Him was the Jewish nation, which resounded with the cry of death : "*Crucify Him ! Crucify Him !*" The Jews had the prophets to delineate precisely the features of the Messiah, also His miracles to attest the superhuman power of the Son of Mary.

Again, the sin of the Jews was greater, because it was through malice they delivered Jesus and called for His death. Pilate, on the contrary, was constrained thereto by their violence. With his cowardly weakness, Pilate is only a homicide ; with their voluntary ignorance and obstinate hatred, the Jews are deicides. If Pilate may be excused, they must be execrated.

Pardon, Jesus, pardon for crimes so great ! Pardon for Pilate's crime, pardon for that of Caiaphas, for that of the decide Jews, pardon and reparation for all the pain they inflicted on Thy tender Heart !

But alas ! It must be acknowledged, the Jews are not the only guilty ones. He who has delivered Thee is I, *myself*, it is every sinner who offends Thee with full knowledge.

Pardon for all who still condemn Thee to death in their heart by sacrilegious Communions ! Are not they, also, more guilty than Pilate, they who by their scandals, draw souls to ruin and thus endeavor to render useless the merits of Thy Passion ?

Pardon for the souls in purgatory, who are now expiating all the bad example they gave on earth ! Pardon for all the scandals of which I have been guilty, and which have so gravely offended Thee ! I regret them from the bottom of my soul. Henceforth, all my aim will be to edify my brethren and make Thee better loved and served by them !

IV. — Prayer.

To imitate Jesus—all is here contained for the Christian. Only they who are like Him can hope for a right to His heavenly kingdom. But to imitate the Saviour, one must know Him, one must open the holy Gospels. There we read the