

her love from breaking the bonds that held her to the bosom of the church for the good of the faithful.

Consequently, how great was the joy of this heavenly lover when the angel Gabriel came to invite her to enjoy the presence and the sight of her well-beloved ! With what ardent desire did she answer him as on the day of the Incarnation : « Behold the handmaid of the Lord, be it done unto according to thy word. » And after visiting the Holy Places of Jerusalem for the last time, she entered the *canaculum*, modestly stretched herself on her bed and without effort as without violence, gave up her holy and blessed soul into the hands of her beloved Son.

O holy soul of Mary, transported to heaven on a cloud of holy desires, teach us not to attach our hearts to a world that is falling into ruins ; not to please ourselves, but to groan in this vale of tears ; to sigh unceasingly for paradise and to ardently desire Jesus who is infinitely desirable.

After the departure of the holy soul that animated it, Mary's sacred body was filled with light and splendor and exhaled a most agreeable odor. The all-powerful shadow of God the Father which had protected it from the dawn of her life, and had not only tempered in her, as in the other elect, but had completely extinguished the fire of concupiscence, preserved her body from the attacks of corruption and even prevented the beginning of decay. The incarnate Wisdom which was born of her, which had received human life from her alone, willed that life be restored to His sweet Mother on the third day after her death and thus to apply to her, rather than to the other elect, all the efficacy of the precious blood drawn from her womb and poured out for her above all. Finally the Holy Ghost enriched and adorned the resuscitated flesh of the Virgin, His Spouse, with glorious qualities such as no elect will ever possess and endowed her with such great beauty that no one could ever contemplate it for an instant without dying at once.

Do you wish, dear readers, to rise again glorious as the Mother of God ? Live on that heavenly food of which the Lord has said : « My flesh is truly food. He who eats my flesh shall