

life of devotions as well as those committed time and again, after repeated lapses and repeated pardons, for all the sad, long catalogue of grievous sins that outrage God and ruin man, there is but one condition of pardon required, sincere sorrow, and the firm resolve to sin no more; and then the absolution imparted is certain of effect, is sure and full and complete. O the unfathomable depth of the pardoning love of Christ: O the inestimable and inexhaustible riches of His mercies in the Sacrament of Penance: O tree of life that stands forever in the Eden of God's Church for the healing of the Nations: O Divine Probatika whose saving waters forever flow in life-giving streams for the cleansing of sin and the salvation of immortal souls.

Let us then, dearly beloved brethren, cherish a deep and abiding devotion for this holy sacrament; let us approach it frequently and with worthy dispositions, confident that if in this respect we sow in tears we shall reap in joy. One of the worst efforts of the enemy of souls is to inspire sinners with fear and a version of this divine ordinance of salvation. The world hates it and condemns it, because the world is the enemy of God's interests, and is the friend and ally of Satan in the destruction of souls. But all who wish to be at the side of Jesus, all who value their immortal souls, all who seriously wish to work out their eternal salvation, will make use of this most powerful means of grace, and will not fail through it to come frequently to the good Shepherd for mercy and pardon, to come to Him as Magdalen did, for the remission of many sins, to come to Him as the Prodigal to his father, for restoration of their lost rights and merits, for the recovery of their lost Sonship with their heavenly Father, and their heirship to the kingdom of God's eternal glory.

In conclusion, dearly beloved brethren, let us earnestly exhort you to spend this holy and penitential season of Lent in accordance with the spirit and requirements of the Church.

Let all perform their Easter duty by worthily receiving the Sacrament of Penance and the Blessed Eucharist, as we