

only the goodness of a Saviour. The Pharisees bring to Him a woman taken in adultery, asking Him to become her judge. Jesus, in order to save her from torture, braves the accusations which His mercy furnishes as a pretext to His enemies. He finds an ingenious means of delivering her from those who wish her death, and sends her away pardoned.

We recognize Jesus in the father of the prodigal son. He has for him only the heart of a father, losing sight of his degrading misery, which would seem to extinguish all sentiments of pity. *Pater misericordiz motus est.* It suffices for Him to behold the sad state of the poor prodigal.

We have another instance of the tenderness of the Heart of Jesus in the Gospel narrative of the widow of Naim, who was accompanying to the grave the dead body of her only Son ; His compassionate Heart moved Him to dry the tears of that desolate mother, in giving back to her the son for whom she mourned. St. Bernard remarks that as Our Lord approached the end of his life, He manifested greater marks of His compassion for sinners. At His birth the just only are mentioned as being present ; but as He grew, His mercy seemed to augment and make itself known. *Crevit corpus, crevit et misericordia.* He eats with sinners, admits them into His society, and allows them to follow Him. Though He meets with ingratitude and even betrayal, He does not repulse them, — nay more, He dies between two sinners. Our Lord's mercy for His wandering sheep has not diminished ; His Sacred Heart is the refuge ever open to repentant sinners. O merciful Saviour, who would not delight in praising, glorifying and blessing Thy divine mercy, that indulgent goodness always ready to pardon ? Ah ! It is the remembrance of that merciful tenderness, so often ignored, which presses us to respond more faithfully to the love of His Sacred Heart, and to render It our sincere homage by imitating that Divine example.

Yes, our hearts must reproduce the sentiments of the