

which we repeat to you with confidence: "I know not of any devotion more fitted to raise up a soul, in a short time, to the highest sanctity, and to fill it with the true sweetness attached to the service of God: "Yes, I confidently assert that if it were known how pleasing to Jesus-Christ is this devotion, not a christian but would hasten to practise it. Persons consecrated to God find therein an infallible means to preserve, to increase, and to recover, their fervor, when they have unhappily lost it. Persons of the world find therein all the assistance they need in their station in life, peace in their family, relief in their labors, and the blessings of Heaven in all their undertakings. Ah! how easily he dies who has been constantly devout to the Heart of his Supreme Judge!"

The devotion to the Sacred Heart of Mary is a most natural consequence of the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. We must not separate, in our love, these Hearts which the Divine Wisdom has so intimately connected together. How happy we shall be to consider the wonderful bands of union formed between the Heart of the most perfect of sons and the Heart of the most perfect of mothers! Undoubtedly our poor intellect cannot penetrate the abyss of their mutual love; but our affection should, with complacency, contemplate what may inflame it with the holiest ardors.

Let us therefore go to the Heart of Jesus through the Heart of Mary, and we shall find the mercy that forgives, the light that illuminates, the grace in fine without which we are nothing, but with which we can do all things in Him who strengtheneth us (Philip. IV. 13.).

To excite in us this devotion to the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, we propose to you as a model the Blessed St. Joseph. In effect, how can we omit speaking to you here of him, who was appointed by God Himself the most faithful guardian and the most watchful protector of the Incarnate Word? *Glory and wealth shall be in his house; and his justice remaineth for ever and ever* (Ps. CXL. 3.). Let us therefore honor him whom Jesus has vouchsafed to honor during life, to console at the hour of death, and to crown with glory, riches and justice during eternity. Let us honor him whom the Vicar of Jesus-Christ has declared the patron of the Catholic Church. Let us fre-