

the Sacred Host, while through It we can make them ours and dispense them at our will. If the dead can only be purified and saved through the death of Christ, let us at the altar partake of the Victim whom the mystic sword transpierces that His Blood may first purify our own sinful soul and then flow in cleansing and consoling streams into the depths of the burning abyss.

Our merits, even the least of our good works, may become so many suffrages accepted by God in favor of the departed. But Communion is the principal, the most meritorious among them all, a satisfaction of agreeable odor, an infallible intercession. Saint Gertrude relates that she once asked Our Lord why she felt so happy when she had communicated in behalf of the suffering souls, and He deigned to reply : because it would not be right for me to refuse the fervent prayers you, on those days of my visits, pour out to Me for the relief of My suffering spouses in Purgatory. "You have," says a devout writer, "the ell in your own hands by which you may measure out your own happiness ; if your are charitable to others, they will not be less so to you."

God hears in favor of those poor souls the simple prayer of our heart the pious desire wafted to heaven on the wings of christian charity. Our cry of pity touches his heart and disarms His justice, but how much the more when He sees in us, praying with us, His well-beloved Son to whom He can refuse nothing and on whom our prayer leans ; how much the more when Jesus Himself inspires our supplications, giving them irresistible impetus and the ardor of His charity.

Finally, we can help the souls in Purgatory, by suffering in their place and every disagreeable, laborious work accomplished by us for them diminishes the sum of their pain. Let us, then, go to the Eucharist, this new Calvary where Jesus calls us but to share His crucifixion. Let us courageously undertake the difficult work of purification, of scrupulous preparation, of arduous and perfect holiness communion supposes or produces. Let us drink from the chalice of Jesus Christ the strength to accept generously for the relief of our dear departed, life's many trials. Let us suffer through the labour necessary for fervent communion, and from communion draw the grace to suffer