



HEART OF JESUS, MODEL OF FERVOR.

THE most acceptable offering to the Heart of Jesus is the expression of our devotion and the resolution to live with greater fidelity in His service. Let us present Him the homage of a heart filled with love. Fervor will enable us to make this offering.

I.

We must have for the things of God and for our souls a spirit of earnestness and zeal. One of the greatest obstacles in the path of sanctity is a lack of zeal and generosity. Many who had begun to soar like the eagle have, through discouragement, weakness and want of energy, slackened their speed and come down to the lowness of the commonplace. The favors of heaven, celestial joys and spiritual consolations are only for fervent souls ; and St. Catherine of Bologna has said with reason : " If in our days there could be found a Magdalen more loving than that of the Gospel, God would treat her with greater tenderness, and load her with still more signal favors. If there existed a Francis more compassionate than the great Francis of Assisium, he would assuredly receive from the Divine Master more privileged graces ; and if there dwelt in our midst a soul more devoted than St. Clare, God would work for her greater marvels than those with which He favored that Saint."

Hence, that which attracts the gifts of God is the fervor of a generous soul which seeks to scale the heights of per-