



## The Friendship of the Sacred Heart



great statesman banished from France, was dying in a strange land. He had passed many years in banishment, and seeing death approaching said : « I have lived thirty years in exile and have not found a friend. »

Oh! how many men, after having spent their life in this vale of tears, in this world of exile, will be obliged to say in their last moments « I have lived thirty, forty, fifty years and more in exile, and have not found a friend, a friend who has truly loved me. » And, yet, how necessary a friend is to man ! As the heart must throb and live, so must it love and be loved. Friendship is its element, its life. The Following of Christ (B. II., C., VIII.) says : Without a friend thou canst not well live. » And Saint Augustine, after his return to God from whom his passionate heart had allured him, acknowledged that there was nothing dearer, nothing sweeter, and at the same time, nothing harder to find than a true friend. The Holy Ghost extols the priceless value of a friend. « A faithful companion is a strong defence : and he that hath found him, hath found a treasure. Nothing can be compared to a faithful friend, and no weight of gold and silver is able to countervail the goodness of his fidelity. A faithful friend is the medicine of life and immortality. *Forsake not an old friend, for the new will not be like to him.* Blessed is he that findeth a true friend » (Eccli.)

With the return of June, Holy Mother Church comes to us with the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and repeats the words of a saint : « If you desire to enjoy the charms of friendship, you must be this Heart's friends. » *Si vis vera amicitia delectari, esto amicus Dei.* On account of the great distance separating the Creator from the creature, we could never have pretended to consider the Almighty our friend. And yet in His infinite mercy, God came to us, He clothed Himself with our nature, He took a heart like ours, a heart that experienced all the joys and emotions of friendship, a heart that uttered those consoling words : « *You are my friends.* » (Jo. xv. 14) We must not