

Adam dies not, the earthly Adam remains forever sunk in death. If, on the contrary, Jesus is put to death, Barabbas is pardoned, and Barabbas is the old Adam with all his posterity.

At the moment when the guilty Barabbas was liberated, all mankind recovered their liberty. I myself am a criminal set free by Jesus. I have recovered my right to the resurrection of body and soul. "In truth," as a certain author says very well, "Jesus Christ delivered two men during His passion: Barabbas from the death of the body, and the thief from that of the soul. By this He wished to show us that, by His Blood, He delivered us from the death of the soul and of the body." By accepting that humiliating comparison with a criminal, a murderer, and a seditious man, as well as the abominable preference of the Jews, Jesus wished us to understand that His Blood was to be shed especially for sinners.

I thank Thee, O Divine Father, for having so generously sacrificed Thy Son, in order to bestow upon us the life of grace and glory. I thank Thee, O Jesus, for having in spite of the repugnance of nature, loved this humiliation which was to free me from eternal damnation! I see plainly that it was owing much more to the fervor of Thy prayer than to the malice of men that Barabbas was delivered and Thou wert condemned. Mayst Thou be forever glorified!

Thou hast done still more, O Divine Heart of Jesus! For love of me and my salvation, Thou didst create the sacramental state. Thou didst will to remain constantly on earth in order to apply by Communion the fruits of Thy generous acceptance of death. To attain this end, Thou didst choose this humiliating mode of existence, which places Thee lower than in the prætorium, lower than Barabbas, lower than the last of men, since in this state Thou dost descend so far as to lose even the appearance of a man. And Thou didst willingly accept this obscure life of the Host in order to procure me the life of the body and the soul, in order to obtain for me the resplendent life of eternal glory.

I thank Thee, O Sacred Heart of Jesus, I thank Thee for Thy truly divine bounty to me! I thank Thee for myself and in the name of all the redeemed!

### III. — Reparation.

"*Not this Man, but Barabbas!*" The demon had sought every means to destroy Jesus. He had ranged all his armies