

pressed, when you think that there is still someone who loves you, who takes care of you, who only desires your happiness and does all that enables you to obtain it? Do you not feel some relief when you think of your loving God in heaven? The Holy Ghost puts this thought in your mind; He consoles you.

Do you not carry your cross with more resignation and patience, perhaps even joyfully, when you consider that all your sufferings come from the loving hands of God, who sends them not to torture you but for your own good; to detach your heart from the transitory and unworthy objects of this earth, to which we are but too much attached; to give you a chance to become like to your suffering Redeemer, a chance of meriting an imperishable crown in heaven. It matters little if we must suffer here for a few years, if only thereby we are happy for all eternity hereafter. The Holy Ghost causes you to make this consideration; He consoles you.

Is the thought of death still terrible and painful when you recall to mind that it is the gate through which the soul passes from a land of sorrow and exile to her true home, which is heaven?

Finally your sins, however numerous, the reproach of your conscience, the dread of the angry Judge and of the flames of hell, do they still almost drive you to despair, when you hear a voice that whispers in your ear: "Confess thy sins, and they shall be forgiven thee." It is the voice of the Holy Ghost; He consoles you.

Lastly, on Pentecost Christ's church received not only the Spirit of truth and of consolation, but also of strength.

Our life is a warfare, says already the saintly Job. Many and fierce are the battles we have to wage if we follow Christ as our Leader, if we place ourselves under His banner, if we wish to reach Eternal happiness and escape ever-

lasting woe. We are all full aware of this fact, we all feel the struggle that rages within us between ourselves and our passions, between us and the devil.

But all those who enlist in Christ's army, who fight in his ranks, young or old, men or women, all are fully equipped by God himself. For when they receive the Sacrament of Baptism, which makes them followers of Christ, the Holy Ghost cleanses their souls by the infusion of sanctifying grace; He makes them beautiful in the sight of God, children of Heaven and heirs of the heavenly kingdom. He infuses the power and gives the strength to trample under foot vice and to lead a virtuous life. And when the actual fight begins, when we come to the use of reason, the Holy Spirit comes in a special manner upon us in the Sacrament of Confirmation. He then helps in various ways to vanquish the enemy and to gain the victory, for all receive from the Holy Ghost so many actual graces—the Church has defined—as are necessary and sufficient to make victory possible; it only depends on our co-operation. Therefore we need not be afraid of all our enemies, since God is our protector, for if God be with us, who shall stand against us? We have but to co-operate with God's help, we must second the good impulses we receive from Him, and our final triumph will be certain.

Pentecost is, therefore, a day of joy, since on this day the Spirit of truth, consolation and strength came upon the youthful Church of Christ, to abide with it and to be ever active in it and in each single member of this Church. This new work of God's mercy should enkindle in our soul's gratitude and love; it should stimulate us to do God's will and never to offend Him by sin. And if we do this, our present life already will be a happy one, and we shall be happy also in the next life for ever.