

best-beloved children? We can never thank thee enough for this condescension; but since thou art pleased to be so kind and so liberal in gifts, grant that this beautiful title of Sons may lead us, in return, to answer thee always with corresponding love! Pater, Ave and Gloria.

II. Reason would seem to require, O Mary, that the more we learn of thy maternal love descending on us in benefits, the more our filial love should ascend to thee — thus, to requite love with love. But since this is no easy thing to our cold hearts, set them on fire, O Mary, that we may love thee all that we can, though never as we ought! Pater, Ave and Gloria.

III. Thou hast given us thy sacred Habit, O Mary, and a share in thy sonship, for no other purpose than this, that, being distinguished above all others by thy maternal goodness, we should be distinguished from all others by our more tender filial love. Oh, how great our shame! that under the fair Habit of Mary we should conceal hearts grown corrupt, divided and torn by disordered passions, when they should have been consecrate to thee. Pater, Ave and Gloria.

IV. O dear Mother Mary, we ought to make thee the sweetest object of our affection, of our ardors and of our vows; yea, bearing everywhere thy beloved Name deeply impressed upon us, we ought to honor thee so much the more with new acts of deference. Yet, with the Habit of Carmel upon us, we still think of other things, talk of other things and show ourselves in all our deeds far from being dutiful sons to thee, O Mary. Pater, Ave and Gloria.

V. A truly devout child of Mary ought to have her honor always at heart and to extol her glory with eager zeal, ready to uphold it at cost of blood or life. Miserable indeed are we, since, neglecting our duties as children of Mary, we fail to visit her churches; nor do we

even recite a prayer in her honor without growing weary! Ah, let us pledge ourselves to honor Mary more, if we would recognize her as our Mother. Pater, Ave and Gloria.

VI. If Mary rejoices to have her sons solicitous for her own honor and glory, how much more does she long to see them loving and respectful to Jesus! He who fails to love Jesus, he who offends Him, will never be a worthy child of Mary. How many times, indeed, have we displeased Him with our sins! O sweet Mother, grant that we may feel it our chief obligation to make reparation to Jesus for our past neglects by so much the more of love and loyalty! Pater, Ave and Gloria.

VII. Of what enormous ingratitude would not the Brothers of Carmel be guilty if, after having been graciously adopted by Mary as her sons, they should dare to insult her by a single act of sin! Ah, it can never be true that they would bring on her such dishonor. We promise thee now, O Blessed Mother, to love thee well and to love thee forever. Nor shall we ever find peace till we have acquired a tender and filial passion for thee, O beautiful Mother of love! Pater, Ave and Gloria.

FOURTH DAY.

That in the capacity of Mary's Sons we are bound to imitate her.

I. O great Mother of God, who art so superior, through the loftiness of thy merits, to all other created beings that these look mean to us when compared with thee, how is it possible for us to call thee Mother? And yet so it is. Thou, who art the Mother of God, when giving us thy sacred Habit, didst declare thyself indeed our Mother. Come, therefore, and show thyself for what thou art! Give us grace and power to recognize thy dignity and to meet our own great obligations as thy children! Pater, Ave and Gloria.

II. Our duty as thy children includes both readiness and faithful-