

prisoned longer in His own Heart, and despite the appalling night and morrow revealed before Him, it breaks forth in these rapturous accents : " With desire I have desired to eat this pasch with you before I suffer " (Luke, xxii, 15).

Jesus desired with an irrepressible desire ; He longed, and had longed from the beginning, to see the evening of this day, when He should enter into the hearts of his chosen ones, all imperfect as they were, not to reap any benefit for Himself, but to overpower them with His love, and to become for them their spiritual food and life.

If the present Month of the Sacred Heart brings home to us but this one lesson, if at its close we shall have learnt to reciprocate that desire, and shall have commenced in all earnestness to long to eat that pasch with Him, it will have been well spent and will prove profitable beyond measure for eternity.

It should not be difficult to foster within us that desire, so pleasing to the Divine Lover of souls, when we consider to what lengths He went to make that union of a God, with His creature possible. Man's ingenuity could never have devised the plan, nor would he ever have dared to consider such a one as possible. It required a God's love and a God's omnipotence. It was a miracle of love that gave existence to what was in itself inconceivable for man, the great test of his belief, the *Mysterium Fidei*.

But Almighty God, in His dealings with man, from the beginning of the world, had ever shrouded Himself in mystery. At one time, it was to spare human nature, too weak to look upon the undiminished splendour of His majesty ; at another, to veil from mortal eyes the aspect of His glory, of His beauty, of His divine perfections, whose sight is to enrapture the elect throughout the endless ages ; while again it may have tallied better with His, all-merciful designs for man's salvation.

It was a mysterious voice that upbraided Cain for the murder of his brother ; it was from the midst of a burning