

the Heart of Mary. It was the love of gratitude, that virtue so pleasing to Jesus. He rejoiced in it, gloried in it. He returned to Mary a hundredfold of happiness, glory, power in heaven and on earth for all that He had received from her. Hence, the perpetual effusion of His most magnificent gifts, blessings, thanksgivings, and praise: "*Ave, Maria, benedicta tu in mulieribus!*" Thou hast opened in my Heart an incurable wound of love, O My well-beloved! "*Vulnerasti cor meum, soror mea sponsa!*" — Thou hast wounded My Heart, My sister, My spouse!" "Come, come that I may crown thee in a triumph eternally renewed! — *Veni coronaberis, veni!*"

These flames of her Son's love enkindle in the Heart of Mary a sense of gratitude which becomes almost a torture, for if she herself has given anything, it was of the fruits that she had received, and what she has received will always be infinitely more than she has given. She fully understands the abundance, the price of the divine benefits. In her most pure gratitude she retains nothing for herself and, being incapable of egoism, her soul melts into thanksgiving. She is transformed into the living expression of praise, and she eternally chants to the Heart of her son her canticle of gratitude; "*Magnificat anima mea Dominum, et exultavit spiritus meus in Deo salutari meo!*" — My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoice in God, my Saviour!"

It is only by uniting our thanksgivings to those of Mary, in order to purify them, to enliven them with love, that our duties of thanksgiving, and they are innumerable, infinite, since we have been infinitely loved, will be pleasing to Jesus. There is only one voice that charms and captivates His Heart: "*Sonet vox tua in auribus meis, vox enim tua dulcis*" — Let thy voice sound in my ears, for thy voice is sweet". There is only one voice that He still desires to hear, and that is the voice of his Mother; "*Quæ habitas in hortis, amici auscultant; fac me audire vocem tuam!*" — Thou that dwellest in the gardens, the friends hearken. Make me hear thy voice!" That voice of Mary, did we know how to make it sound upon our lips, will open to us the Heart of her Son, causing inexhaustible torrents of grace to fall upon the earth.

"Once," says Blessed Margaret Mary, "my Mother made me see the Sacred Heart of Jesus as a source of living water, whence it flowed gently by five canals. . . ."
Again, she says, "This Queen of goodness, speaking to the daughters of the Visitation, said: 'Not only should they enrich themselves from this inexhaustible Treasure, but still more should they distribute Its precious coin as far as they are able. Let them give largely. Let them enrich the whole world with It, fearing not that It will ever fail, for the more they will draw from It, the more It will have to give!'"

(To be continued.)

