

## May I Aspire to Friendship with the Sacred Heart.



**F**RIENDSHIP is a special form of affection. It is not based upon love alone. A mother may love her babe beyond human conception, but she cannot call that infant her friend. Why? Because friendship is founded upon a constant intercourse of reciprocal affection, of mutual esteem, of similar ideas and desires.

If a king not satisfied with loving me as he does his other subjects, should call me to live in his palace; if, whilst there, he acknowledged that he loved me and asked my love in return which was immediately given to him; if he revealed how much he esteemed me, and I told him of the great veneration I bore him; if, condescending to question me, he declared that he shared my ideas; if, to consummate his union with me, he requested me to dine with him as his equal, then I might truly say that friendship's ties bound us both, because friendship is the intimate communication, the interchange of ideas, etc., between two persons bound together by mutual love.

Is there, then, a possibility for me to be the friend of Jesus? Can friendship exist between two persons of different classes of society? Would it not be an absurdity on a priest's part to pretend to be intimate with the Pope? And I, dare I hope to aspire to friendship with God? Why not, since Jesus Himself has proffered me His friendship! One of the pervading thoughts of Holy Scripture is: « O man, do become the friend of God made man, because He seeks your friendship! »

Did Our Lord not call His disciples His friends: « And I say to you, my *friends*, (Luc. XII. 4.) « You are my *friends*. . . I will not now call you servants. . . But I have called you *friends*: because all things whatsoever I have heard of my Father, I have made known to you. » (Joan. XV. 14. 15.) « Lazarus our *friend* sleepeth. » (Joan. XI.) « Jesus said to Judas: « *Friend*, whereto art thou come? » (Matt. XXVI.) And I say to you my *friends*: Be not afraid. . . (Luc. XII.)

How frequently does not the Old Testament give the endearing term « friend, friendship » to God's intercourse with His creatures?