

Assuredly, this commission was intended to reach not merely the few who heard the words as they fell from the lips of our Lord ; it was destined for all men, in all ages, even till the end of time. But we are creatures of the senses ; and the Divine command had to be supplemented by some strong supernatural inducement to enable us to carry out, in its entirety, the work of glorifying God and of saving souls. That is why Christ added : " Behold, I am with you all days even to the consummation of the world." (Matt. xviii. 20). With Christ, then, as our witness and helpmate, nothing further is needed to fill us with zeal for the work we have to do.

Zeal, we are told, is the perfection of charity. It has been admirably said that if the love of God and our neighbor be likened to a fire, zeal is the heat that springs from it ; the greater the fire the more intense the heat. Zeal is the passion that gnaws at the heart of him who loves God : it is the sublime indignation that fills the soul of a man who sees a loving and loveable God misunderstood, and even outraged ; it is the overwhelming desire that a man has to bring souls captive to the foot of God's throne, and to augment indefinitely their number. The Psalmist was overpowered with this zeal when he exclaimed : " The zeal of Thy house hath eaten me up, O Lord." (lxviii. 10.) " A fainting hath taken hold of me, because of the wicked that forsake Thy law." (cxviii. 53.) " My zeal hath made me pine away, because Thy enemies forgot the words." (cxviii. 139.) The contemplation of the mercies of God impressed him so deeply that he could not bear to see men wicked and indifferent amid such a wealth of tenderness and love.

So it is with us. When we know God, even imperfectly, we are inspired with the same zeal. We desire to have His name known, glorified, and loved by other men. We long to have others participate in the good things we ourselves possess. No sacrifice is too great, no work too wearying,