

the love of God with which St. Ignatius Loyola crowns his Spiritual Exercises. The mind grows bewildered at the generosity of the Great Giver ; and he would have a heart of stone, indeed, who could remain unmoved in the midst of such munificence.

In the first place we have to thank Him for putting us in this world ; existence and life are gifts for which we can never be sufficiently thankful. To mere life He has added the capacity for enjoying it ; witness those five avenues through which the splendors of the world pass into us, and those three faculties by which we may penetrate more deeply the secrets of His creative power and His Providence. By these we may see God living and acting in creatures, giving vegetation and sensation to inanimate being, and crowning all in us by adding intelligence and free will whereby we may show our appreciation of Him.

When we abused this goodness, when our free will strayed from the path of righteousness and we became God's enemy, did He cease to shower His gifts on us ? No ; He gave us something greater than all that we had yet received, the gift of Redemption. Not merely has He become a Redeemer, paying our debts, washing out our sins with His Blood and freeing us from eternal death, but He has become a Master whose law, word and example is ever at our service ; He has become our High Priest ever offering Himself for us ; our Mediator interceding for us in our needs ; yea, even our nourishment in the Heavenly Banquet.

Nor is this all. God is utterly profuse in His gifts. To redeem and save us was not enough to satisfy His love for us. He continues to flood our soul with His precious graces. Whence comes, if not from God, the