

Divine lips, followed Him into the desert, forgetful of their corporal nourishment, the tenderness of His Sacred Heart prompted Him to work that wonderful miracle of the multiplication of the loaves.

But in coming to the relief of that great moral misery, sin, His merciful charity has signalized itself. The Heart of Jesus is the permanent source of pardon which Heaven grants to sinners, and of the aid which they require that they may be reconciled to God. By how many mysterious ways does Our Lord not call back sinners to His love. When we see all that God has done for us through His Church, and when we consider all the graces and favors which He is continually lavishing upon us, we must believe that He really wishes to save us.

"It is with reason," says St. Bernard, "that God is called the Father of mercy, and not the Father of judgment or vengeance; first, because mercy is more natural to a father than indignation, and God in His quality of Father has pity on His children; again, because He draws from Himself the origin and cause of His mercy, whilst our malice furnishes Him with the occasion of judgment and punishment." Pity considers only the misfortune; it forgets the cause of the suffering which it seeks to relieve. When a mother sees her child suffering, she thinks not of his guilty conduct, which has been the cause of his sorrow, but seeks only to extend to him help, consolation and pardon. This is the touching image under which God presents Himself to us in the Scripture. We love to read those expressions of tenderness: "Can a woman forget her infant, so as not to have pity on the son of her womb? and if she should forget, yet will not I forget thee." (Isaias, XLIX). Our Lord declares that He will have more compassion than a mother for her children. (Eccl. iv. ii.).

When Our Lord deigned to dwell amongst men, He made known to them the ineffable clemency of His Sacred Heart. Sinners came into His presence, and He manifested for them: