

sure and the profit accruing to the kingdom from the return of these subjects. He longs to repeat the action, and burns to possess fresh resources to enable him to carry on the work. He appeals to his opulent friends—the princes and lords of the realm—and invites them to assist him in his charitable enterprise by donating their fortunes to this good work. They acquiesce, and the prince, with reckless prodigality, flings all this wealth with the ransom money. The warning circulates at court: “Princes! Lords, all you who pride yourselves on being favorites of the king’s son, beware! your wealth will disappear, you will be ruined!”

We may apply this comparison to God’s only begotten Son—Our Lord Jesus Christ. He beholds immense riches in man, wealth similar to that which, with such abundant and admirable fruit, He Himself expended throughout Judea and on Calvary. This wealth is the object of His longing, He will claim and spend it too. He covets the heart throbbing in our breasts, the blood coursing through our veins, the life animating us and our body so painfully sensitive and so marvellously adapted, like His own, for torture and death.

Faithful and generous friends of Jesus Christ! prepare yourselves! You are destined for immolation! The great High Priest will sacrifice you as He sacrificed Himself for God’s glory and the world’s salvation.

Behold the sublime mystery of the re-incarnation of Jesus Christ in His faithful servants.

What is Our Lord’s occupation on earth? An uninterrupted search for souls, lives and bodies. He calls gently: “Child, give me thy heart,” and when once He enters a heart, it no longer lives its own life, but the life of Jesus Christ. O! what joy, what rapture to slake the thirst of our Redeemer and enable Him to satisfy His yearning for souls. His chosen one must sacrifice all. This new body possessed by Jesus Christ is destined for torture; the new life He owns will be consumed and extinguished, and the new blood supplied Him must be shed drop by drop or perhaps in streams. And, what is most extraordinary of all, the more freely such a soul allows Our Lord to work His will in her the more desirous of suffering she becomes, to such an extent that, like Saint