

It is self-evident, that in the same ratio that this spirit of prayer asserts its sway over a greater number of faithful souls and permeates them more thoroughly, will our holy army widen out its field of action and hasten the longed-for hour of its triumph. Our Lord has told us: "*My Heart shall reign in spite of all Its enemies.*"

But what, according to the language at the same time picturesque and replete with meaning of the Doctors of the Church, is this spirit of prayer? "It is," says St. Cyril of Alexandria, "the sweet-smelling emanation of souls that are pure."\* "It is," says St. Augustine, "a hymn and canticle harmonized by your good deeds."† "It is," says St. Clement of Alexandria, "your very being transformed into a perpetual holy-day solemnized in honor of your God."‡

It is, in a word, the fulfilment of the great precept imposed on us by our Lord Himself, and after Him enjoined by the *Apostle of the Gentiles*, "Pray always, pray without ceasing."§

To be candid, the bare enunciation of this command affrights our weakness; and yet there is nothing in it impracticable or incompatible with the many duties of our every-day life. Quite the contrary, when it is complied with as we are taught to do by the *Apostleship of Prayer* in its easy and practical way, for it renders our Christian life more earnest, more fervent, more meritorious and far happier. It renders it, above all, more fruitful and truly worthy of the Heart of Jesus.

It is the teaching of holy divines that the prayer of every moment—which is naught else than the *spirit of prayer*—may assume divers forms, all commendable cer-

\* *In Ps. LXXV.*

† *In Ps. XCI.*

‡ *Strom., L. VII., c. 7.*

§ *St. Luke, XVIII;—I, Thess. V. 17.*