

gin most pitiful, our only hope !— whenever the need comes, extend to us, also, a similar aid ! Pater, Ave and Gloria.

VII. How many poor sinners, sunk in deeps of iniquity and for a long time buried, as to their souls, in the black shadows of Death, have at last put on the Holy Habit of Mary ! And scarcely were they clad therein, when they suddenly became filled with compunction, weeping over their old sins, and were led back to a salutary penitence. Ah, sweet Refuge of Sinners, protect us ever more, and among the perils of this miserable life never leave us nor forsake us ! Pater, Ave and Gloria.

SEVENTH DAY.

That the Habit of Mount Carmel
Brings Great Comfort in Death.

I. The greatest peril of the soul, that which puts it in bitterest need of opportune aid, comes at the extreme point of death. But what consolation the Brothers of Mount Carmel then feel, coming from thee, O Mary ! For thou hast promised that whosoever wears devoutly, in life, thy sacred livery, shall feel in death all the tenderness of thy maternal love and thy maternal protection. Pater, Ave and Gloria.

II. Against the foes of our life thou hast given us thy holy Habit, O Mary, because it renders us formidable, and, likewise, restores us again after all errors and offences. If, with such special concern, thou dost deign to shield us through the stress of life, with how much more reason may the Brothers of Carmel hope for thine aid—thy willingness being proportionately greater—in the tremendous and perilous passage of death ! Pater, Ave and Gloria.

III. If a good Mother, seeing her own son in great danger, runs anxiously to save him, thou, O Mary, who dost glory in being our most tender Mother—the best, in sooth, and most charitable of all mothers—how couldst thou fail to

show thyself such, at that perilous moment whereon our eternal felicity depends and in which thy maternal love ought to prove its full efficacy ? Pater, Ave and Gloria.

IV. Yet Satan, like a roaring lion, rages round us, full of wrath, taxing the extreme force of his malignant fury,—eager to make the soul his prey and drag it to the brink of destruction. Yet, with our hearts fortified in that hour of trial by the potent Habit which thou hast given us, we can bear with firmness the fearful threats of the common adversary and in thy great Name face him, secure of victory. Pater, Ave and Gloria.

V. Terrible to evil demons is the sacred Habit of Mary. At the mere sight of it, even as the wild beast at sunrise retreats to his lair, these hellish furies, vanquished and panic-stricken, flee with precipitation to the depths of their abysses. Ah, Virgin most compassionate, hide us beneath thy salutary vesture, both now and in the great hour of our mortal extremity, that, having quelled our foes, we may freely pass on to our Celestial Country ! Pater, Ave and Gloria.

VI. What timely and precious consolation the sacred Habit of Mary sheds on the heart in the hour of death,—preparing us to bear meritoriously the bitter pains of our last agony ! How it helps us to make fervent acts of faith, and of holy love, and of hope, made more courageous by the nearness of salvation ! It is sweet to die in the Habit of Mary. How the Brothers and Sisters of thy Carmel rejoice, O Mary, at the last ! Pater, Ave and Gloria.

VII. It is beautiful to see so many good Sons and Daughters of Carmel, despite the anguish of their tremendous passage from earth, in sweet communion with the Blessed Virgin,—hanking her for having numbered them among her children, kissing often and earnestly her holy Habit ; cheerful,—nay, rejoicing,—to die thus in peace therein ! O