

SECOND DAY.

That the Holy Habit makes us Adopted Sons of Mary.

I. Most Gracious Virgin, if it were great love that impelled thee to present us with thy Sacred Habit, how much greater thou hast shown that love to be, in declaring, also, at the same time, that we were thy "best beloved Sons!" What a sublime dignity is this for us! What greater happiness could we know on earth than that of being among thine elect, O Mary, and numbered with thy most highly-favored Sons? Pater, Ave and Gloria.

II. Yet thine, O Mary, are these beautiful words, which fell from thine own lips when Thou didst stretch out to Blessed Simon Stock thy loving hand and bestow upon him thy Holy Habit; "Receive, most beloved son," thou didst say, "this pledge of my love, which shall be for thee and for all the Brothers of Carmel, a sure sign of sonship." O sweet, O precious words! Thou art our Mother, O Mary, and we are thy sons! Pater, Ave and Gloria.

III. All the faithful may indeed boast of being thy sons, O Mary, their spiritual sonship beginning amid the woes of Calvary at the foot of the Cross and in the person of Saint John: yet thy special love for the Brethren of Mount Carmel still remained unsatisfied. Wherefore thou hast begotten them anew from out the heavens that they might be distinguished above all others. O dearest Mother, how tender thy love, how ingenious ever in devising ways of benefaction! Pater, Ave and Gloria.

IV. For further assurance of being dear and acceptable beyond all others unto thee, thou hast been seen, O Mary, in view of an immense multitude, to cause one of thy images to bend its head toward us as in act of salutation, repeating these words thrice over, in a voice both clear and distinct, "Be-

hold my sons! These are verily my sons!" O condescension of Mary! And for us what felicitous destiny! Pater, Ave and Gloria.

V. The Angels marvel at the extreme condescension of their Queen, because, from a mere impulse of love and without any deserving of ours, she is pleased to honor so highly those who wear her sacred Habit, lifting each from his former humble state to the great dignity of a son. Ah! since thou hast chosen us for such a destiny, grant that we may zealously labor to become, as far as in us lies, thy worthy sons, O Mary. Pater, Ave and Gloria.

VI. Before putting on the holy Habit of Mary we were poor and miserable in the eye of heaven, yet scarcely were we invested with this honored garb and made its devotees than we suddenly became rich within ourselves and precious in the sight of Mary, being regarded by her as well-beloved sons. Beautiful changes, these, wrought by the hand of the Mother of God! O most highly beloved, O most adorable Hand of Mary, be thou ever more and more favorable to us all! Pater, Ave and Gloria.

VII. Is there any glory, any honor, that can equal the fair destiny of those whom thou dost admit to thine own service, those who can claim membership in the Brotherhood of Carmel, those who are beloved of thee, O Mary, and received as verily thine own dear sons? Ah, beloved Mother, leave thy imprint ever on our hearts that we may never fail to love and serve thee with filial tenderness! Pater, Ave and Gloria.

THIRD DAY.

That the fact of being Sons of Mary makes it our duty to love her.

I. O Mother of holy love, who can ever explain thy incomparable benevolence towards the Brethren of Mount Carmel in lifting them, as thou hast, to the lofty rank of thy