

who would at first sight appear to be actuated by the love of all that is holy and elevating. This age seems to be one of reasoning and discussion, rather than one of humble, undoubting faith, and the consequence of this is that prayer and adoration are far too sparingly offered up to the Supreme Being, our Father in Heaven. Earnestness forms but a small part of our present system, and hence loving veneration is in great danger of growing weaker and weaker.

Our mother, the Church, comes bountifully to the aid of those amongst her children who remain faithful and loving, and from the time of the revelation of the Devotion to the Sacred Heart up to the present moment, has been constantly approving of all those devotional developments, which have had their origin in the natural impulse of the human heart to redouble its own manifestations of love, in order to make up for the lack of such manifestations in others towards the object of that love. This is an impulse which is laudable even in the natural order of things, as, for instance, when a child redoubles its caresses in order to soothe some sorrow from which its mother is suffering, or when a mother surrounds an afflicted or infirm child with even more tender affection than mothers are wont to bestow, lavish though that be. In a far higher degree in the supernatural order, is this loving impulse laudable when it expands into a sublime necessity of offering loving reparation to God, His Son, and His Blessed Mother to make amends for the neglects and insults that are heaped on them by public prints, by individuals, by whole communities, and, alas! even by entire nations.

Practices of Reparation and Institutions or Confraternities that further such practices, then, in these days, have become of an absolute necessity to fervent Catholics and, praise be to God! opportunities are not wanting for enabling each of us to give due expression to the loving sympathy and adoration with which our hearts are or should be filled.