

of fire to wipe out Thy enemies? No, Thy love would not permit that. By an effect of Thy infinite goodness, that fatal cry, though a great crime on the part of the Jews, became a great grace for us. By it, Thy justice was to receive compensation and Thy mercy entire satisfaction. And thus it was Thy all-merciful will, that the Man-God was condemned and the sinner freed. Jesus' condemnation is truly the signal of our deliverance. Can we ever sufficiently thank the Eternal Father who permitted it, willed it!

If the Heavenly Father consented to this condemnation of the Jews, it was because His well beloved Son had previously accepted it. In the eternal decrees, the cross was to be the throne on which the Divine Saviour would reconcile guilty humanity to God. If, then, we seek for the cause of Jesus' condemnation to the cross, we shall find it in His own Heart and in human consciences. It is the love of the Accused and the sins of mankind that cry more loudly than the voices of the Jews: "*Crucifigatur!*" The loving Saviour wills that the Divine Blood flowing in His veins should flow upon souls to purify, sanctify, divinize them. Behold, then, why Jesus wills not only to die, but to die of the bloody punishment of crucifixion!

Be Thou, O Divine Jesus, a thousand times thanked and blessed! If I really believed in Thy divine tenderness, would I not be all on fire with love for a God who loves me so much!

And daily still, O Saviour, does the whole earth feel the happy fruits of Thy acceptance of death. A thousand times daily is renewed this great act of love and mercy. Daily, and at every instant in the day, dost Thou permit Thyself to be immolated upon innumerable altars, because man sins daily, and Thou dost not wish God to withdraw from him His love or to deprive him of His right to the heavenly inheritance.

IV. — Prayer.

"*What shall I do with Jesus?*" exclaimed Pilate to the Jews. Pilate, ask that of heaven, ask it of the holy souls on earth. Ask it of the sorrowful Mother, who found all her delight in Him. Ask it of the Apostles who so gladly drank in His heavenly teaching. Ask it of the angels who find in Him the object of their sweetest complacency. Ask it of the Heavenly Father, whose perfect image He is. Heaven and earth thirst for Him. Without Him, is hell; with Him, heaven.