

has not mistaken the meaning of her Son's words. That when he said to John "Behold your Mother," he gave her for Mother to every Christian, is the opinion of all the Fathers. From that moment, St. Bernardine says, Mary considered us all as her true children, and as such bore us all in her heart. No one could express the love wherewith she cherished us and brought us forth to the life of grace. Like to the Eternal Father, she has loved the world to such excess as to sacrifice for it her only Son, says St. Bouaventure.

Let us now examine what love we entertain for such a mother. Have we as we should, a filial love for her, since she has for us a maternal love? If we had, would we continue to offend her Son, and not make for his love the little sacrifices he requires? I confess, O, my Mother, that hitherto my love for you consisted not in *deeds* but in *words*. Let it not be so in future; I desire to be converted, and for that end I place my hopes in you. O, solid ground of confidence, the Mother of God is our Mother! You told St. Bridget that you were the parent of all sinners, who desired to be converted; as one of the chief I fly to your holy patronage.

Flower—Say often, "Shew yourself a Mother."

Fruit—Prove by your works your love for Mary.

MEDITATION.

AUGUST 26.—*Sentiments of the Sacred Heart of Mary on beholding Jesus expire.*

First Point—Consider what where the sentiments of the Sacred Heart of Mary, already oppressed with grief on

beholding the countenance of her dear Son overspread with the paleness of death, his eyelids closed, and his head inclined in token of his respect and submission to God his Father, in giving up his last breath. It was a great miracle that Mary did not expire with Jesus, says St. Bridget. How was it that the rocks were rent as a sign of grief, and that her tender heart was not rent also? Love preserved it entire; Mary was like to Jesus in life, she was like to him also in death; she, too, bends her head to the decree of the Eternal Father, and adores in secret his most holy will.

Mary alone has then experienced pain, and grief, and sorrow, the most unheard of. And what examples has she not given us of submission, constancy, and resignation. Her heart—her life is a most instructive school; yet scarcely do we possess the shadow of these virtues. I confess, O, my Mother that a slight blast is quite enough when disagreeable to my honour and self-love, to precipitate me into the abyss of error and vice; that a little difficulty in a command is enough to make me shake off the yoke of obedience; that a trivial pain suffices to remove me from your holy ways. My God, have mercy on me! Mary, my cherished Mother, obtain for me those virtues, which fortified and rendered you unmoved at the foot of the cross.

Flower—*Seven Ave Marias*, in honor of the seven dolours of our afflicted Mother, and litany of St. John.

Fruit—Love of the Cross.

MEDITATION.

AUGUST 27.—*The Sacred Heart of Mary with Jesus in the Sepulchre.*