

blessed is the fruit of thy womb Jesus!" After having said: "blessed art thou among women." A practical lesson we may learn from this fact is never to separate Mary from Jesus in the manifestations of our piety and that we cannot please Jesus better than by being Mary's servant, nor please Mary more than by being Jesus' servant.

Let us strive to master the salutary science of blessing Jesus with Mary and by Mary. No one has so perfectly adored so royally worshiped, so ardently loved Jesus as Mary whose love surpassed all that the united Angels had ever shown or would ever show Jesus whose love fully included and enclosed all loves, that of creature for Creator, redeemed for Redeemer, servant for Master, disciple for Preceptor, friend for Friend, sister for Brother, spouse for Husband, mother for Son.

## II. — Thanksgiving.

"And blessed is the fruit of thy womb Jesus!" If thou art blessed, dear Jesus, it is because Thou art the Infinite Goodness, the Sovereign Benignity, diffusing Thyself among Thy too highly honored and too dearly loved creatures.

What a source of blessing Thine Incarnation was for this earth and its exiles! How can we justly magnify and extol Thy Sacramental Presence continuing, extending, and multiplying this blessed Incarnation? The crib were Thou appearedst for the first time and the altar whereon Thou dost manifest Thyself so frequently and so universally are "like the two arms of Infinite love enfolding humanity; and the mystery of the cross is the centre where this love has placed its heart."

If there be a creature, dear Jesus, to whom Thou hast given Thyself, trusted Thyself, completely and utterly abandoned Thyself, that creature is Mary, Thy most holy Mother. How I love to contemplate Thee as a little child lying in her arms, nestling close to her heart, depending on her for all things! Joseph is in reality the head of the Holy Family, but during the first year he is passive, there is so little he can do for the helpless Babe. Later on, at Nazareth, his authority will show itself more, as in the natural order of things the Father directs the growing youth, But at Bethlehem, in the Temple of Jerusalem, at the beginning of the sojourn in Egypt the principal role belongs to Mary, the Incarnate Word is truly hers, dependent on her tender care; and with what raptures of maternal love she meets every demand and exigency of His helpless state! If, as we