

If it is true that Jesus has been loved by certain souls, — and even in a sovereign manner, — He was not loved, and He is not now loved by a large number of others. Yes, the thought that a multitude of the redeemed, in spite of His Passion and death, refuse Him their love, was greatest torture at this moment.

And how many among those that make profession of loving Him give themselves to Jesus only in a deceitful manner — yes, let us say it — almost in an ironical manner! How many, while observing a certain number of religious practices, deliberately neglect the fulfilling of their most important duties! How many remain more or less indifferent before the Holy Eucharist in which the Saviour manifests His love in the most striking manner!

It was this ingratitude of souls that determined Jesus to break that silence in the Blessed Sacrament which for sixteen centuries He had there maintained. Then was heard anew the distressing cry of Calvary: "*I have an ardent thirst.*" It is, indeed, the same thirst for souls, for souls to save by the return of love that He demands of them. "*I have an ardent thirst to be loved by men in the Most Blessed Sacrament.*" Jesus thirsts for us to thirst for Him, He thirsts for us to desire Him, He thirsts for us to love Him, and this thirst of love is, in fact, but His thirst for our salvation.

"*I thirst!*" This dying cry of Jesus, repeated by Jesus Eucharistic to the Confidant of His Heart, Blessed Margaret Mary, every Host repeats daily and at every instant of the day. That cry is uttered with the same vehemence by every Host at every Mass all over the earth. Every altar is a new Calvary whereon the Divine Victim offers Himself again in sacrifice to His Divine Father, although in an unbloody manner. By that more than by all the other channels of grace, are applied to souls the infinite merits of His Passion and Death. But His thirst to sanctify souls generally receives no other relief than the vinegar of forgetfulness and abandonment. Vainly has Jesus cried to souls: "*I thirst to save you by applying to you the merits of My sufferings.*" His altars remain deserted. What sorrow for the loving Heart of Jesus! It was for this that He again said to Blessed Margaret Mary in the same tender accents: "*I find almost none who endeavor, as I desire, to slake My thirst by a return of love to Me!*"

"*I thirst!*" This cry of Calvary comes forth from all the Hosts of our ciboriums. Communion is for Jesus the last effort of His love, the great means of uniting Himself to souls and saving them. Yet the majority of Christians desert the Holy Table; and many who do frequent it, for want of the proper dispositions, reap only part of the abundant fruits of salvation that Holy Communion holds. Am I myself of that number? And the thirst of Jesus to give Himself to souls remains without alleviation! Pardon, O Sacred Heart of Jesus, pardon!

"*I thirst!*" This cry of Calvary issues from all the Hosts of Exposition, from all the tabernacles in which Jesus remains a Prisoner for men.