



THE MERCY OF THE HEART OF JESUS.

CHARITY for the unfortunate has been characterized by the beautiful name of Mercy. It is an efficacious compassion for the miseries of our neighbor, and extends to all his misfortunes, physical and moral. Such is its generous and disinterested nature, that the heart that possesses it is saddened by the sufferings of its fellow-beings, *miserum cor*. (Saint Thomas).

In this vale of tears where all creatures mourn, where all must meet the ups and downs of life, how many occasions present themselves for exercising this compassionate charity? In the Heart of Jesus this virtue shines forth with incomparable splendor. This Divine Heart was full of compassion for all the miseries and sufferings which afflict the human race.

Our Lord having undergone all the sufferings of our nature, can fully sympathize with them; and suffering has thereby become sanctified. (Heb. ii. 17). Tender compassion for our miseries caused the Eternal Word to dwell amongst us, clothed in human flesh, in order that He might testify His mercy for mankind. *Per viscera misericordiae in quibus visitavit nos Oriens ex alto*. (Luke, i.).

It was His compassionate Heart which caused Him to extend to us this loving invitation: "Come to Me all ye who are weary and heavy burdened, and I will refresh you." He cures the sick who come to Him, and the infirm who have the happiness to be visited by Him. When a great multitude, eager to hear the words which fell from His