

I thank Thee, O Divine Saviour, for having in Thy boundless love consented that our thorns should cruelly pierce Thy divine head thereby destroying the ancient malediction. I thank Thee in the name of Mary, in the name of all our brethren, the angels and the blessed in heaven. I thank Thee in the name of all Christians who daily experience the salutary effects of Thy crowning with thorns. I thank Thee for all the graces it has brought to us even to this day.

Make me understand that it is, above all, in Holy Communion that Thou dost communicate the grace of patience and resignation merited by Thy crowning with thorns, that by an excess of tenderness Thou dost *Thyself* blunt the sharpness of life's thorns, rendering them more supportable, and changing them into roses for heaven. Make me understand that it is, above all, in Holy Communion that Thou dost form, ornament, and enrich ever more and more, the royal diadem with which Thou dost will me to be crowned in heaven. It will be only there knowing better the greatness of Thy goodness, that I shall be able to thank Thee as Thou deservest. I desire, nevertheless, even now to prove to Thee my gratitude, by willingly accepting all the thorns Thy loving hand will be pleased to drive into my head. Yes, with Thy grace, I cheerfully accept here below the crown of thorns that I may later receive from Thy hand the crown of glory.

### III. — Reparation.

In the Passion of the Son of God, there appear two very distinct forms of punishment : suffering and humiliation. Suffering stamps every act of this terrible drama but it attains its highest intensity in Christ's death on the Cross. Humiliation appears not less throughout the whole Passion of Jesus, but nowhere does it manifest itself so strikingly as in the crowning with thorns. That is the mystery *par excellence* of the divine humiliations. How much did that thorny crown make Jesus suffer ? Who does not know that the pain of the thorns surpassed that of the stripes and blows ? Their wounds were so deep that they remained in the flesh and, in the human body, no part is so sensitive as the head. This torment alone would have been sufficient to cause death.