

The Mount of Temptation.

The quiet days of the Hidden Life are no more. The beautiful home among Nazareth's hills is broken up. Our Lord at the age of thirty, leaves for good the abode of His growing years, and Mary is alone in her sorrow. Our Blessed Lord had come to the banks of the Jordan and had been baptized by John. With what joy He must have listened to the brave and ringing words of His Precursor. The priests were not accustomed to speak, nor scribe nor pharisee to hear such unmistakable utterances in the synagogues. When John had baptized our Blessed Lord, out from the opened heavens came in dove-like form the Holy Spirit; and from on high the Father proclaimed of the Carpenter's Son of Nazareth: "This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased."

"And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from the Jordan, and immediately was led by the spirit into the desert, to be tempted by the devil." The battle is on and the struggle has begun. The immediate preparation for His public life has been taken up—not for His need but for our example—and our Blessed Master goes forth to the wilderness to fast and to pray. His soul, ever united to the Godhead, is even more than ever filled with the deepest emotions and holiest feelings. For forty days He will shun the haunts of men, weaken His body by abstaining from all food and drink, and notwithstanding the pangs of hunger and the burning of thirst, He will commune unceasingly with His Heavenly Father.

The same must every soul in a measure do if it would effect aught for souls and for God. Whoever will touch and influence for good and sanctify the lives of others must first sanctify himself. And who is there who does not want to lift up the fallen, heal the bruised, and take the burden off saddened hearts? The great evers for effective work in the spiritual world are