

offend Thee? Would they not love Thee with their whole heart?

How sweet a labor, to win hearts to Thee! how angelic an employment! how godlike a work!

Who will grant me, to travel over the whole earth, to captivate all hearts, to enkindle them with love for Thee!

Oh would, most sweet Jesus, that I held possession of all hearts, that I might devote them all to Thee, consecrate them to Thy love!

Receive, I beseech Thee, the desire of my heart, whereby I long to be able to secure for Thee, upon earth, as great a love from all men as Thy angels and Saints show Thee in heaven.

Let me become, I entreat Thee, the apostle of Thy Heart, that I may spread Thy love everywhere; that, with a ready and generous heart, I may spend my labor, my pains, my every means, and, over and above, spend myself, for souls that may love and glorify Thee through all eternity.

CHAPTER XVIII.

THAT THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS, PRESENT AT THE MARRIAGE-FEAST IN CANA, TEACHES US SPIRITUAL JOYFULNESS.

I. *The voice of Jesus.*—My Child, as I came for the salvation of all, I became all to all, that I might gain all.

Light is pleasing to all, a source of gladness,

diffusing heat and life. Such was I, the Light of the world: such was My Life, which manifested the joy, the love, the cheerfulness of My Heart.

Search carefully all things, My Child, nowhere shalt thou find Me surly; nowhere shunning, or driving away the people through moroseness: but, everywhere cheerful, gladsomely dealing with men according to the divine good pleasure—animating and sanctifying all things with My Spirit.

Nay rather, behold! when invited, I refused not to be present at the Marriage-feast, together with My Mother and My Disciples; and there to rejoice in a holy manner, availing Myself of every opportunity to gain souls, and to teach virtue and true gladness of heart.

By this example of My Heart, the Saints were taught to entertain a spiritual joyfulness; and thereby to edify their neighbor, and to serve Me with a cheerful heart.

They knew that I am a kind Father, that I love that My children live with their heart expanded—content and happy in the partaking of My blessings.

Ponder these things, My Child: imitate them, that My joy may be within thee.

2. Behold what this spiritual joyfulness does and accomplishes! What is there that gives Me here greater honor than to serve Me with a cheerful heart; to prove, in this manner, to the whole world, that My service is full of sweetness and felicity?

Moreover, the gladness of My Heart adorns virtue, smooths difficulties, softens hardships, brightens the understanding, enlivens the will; in short, makes the whole man well-disposed to everything.

Without joyfulness of heart, all external good