

stronger, fairer, sweeter, and everywhere better art Thou, O Beloved, whom my soul loves!

O Jesus, My Saviour God, delightful Paradise of my heart! grant, I beseech Thee, that always and everywhere I be mindful of Thee, that I love Thee always and everywhere present.

Make my heart a pure and holy dwelling, wherein I may find Thee, possess Thee, enjoy Thee, for the sanctification of my soul, and the ever-enduring glory of Thy heart.

---

## CHAPTER XVI

THAT THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS, TEMPTED IN THE DESERT, TEACHES US EVER TO PRESERVE PEACE OF HEART.

1. *The voice of Jesus.*—My Child, when I went away from the Jordan, I was led by the Spirit into the desert. Behold a sight, which filled the Angels themselves with admiration.

For, removed from human society, dwelling among the wild beasts of the wilderness, I passed My days and nights in fasting and austerity, exposed to all the changes of the weather.

My Heart persevered in divine communings with My heavenly Father, in sublime contemplation, in ceaseless prayer.

Meanwhile, forgotten, or even insulted by the world, I was assailed by Satan in wonderful ways: yea, I was even seized by him, carried elsewhere, and variously and exceedingly tempted.

What impelled Me to undergo these things, if not the love of My Heart, that I might console thee My Child, and teach thee by My example?

Taught and encouraged by this, thou needest not wonder, if, in thy condition of life, thou art tempted by the demon, or annoyed by the world: neither shouldst thou, on account of human events, or the devil's assaults, lose thy peace of heart.

Naught of all this world could disturb or disquiet My Heart: but, ever tranquil and at rest, with a firm Will turning Itself away from the objects cast before It, It went on in peace.

2. My Child, do thou with all diligence aspire to this holy peace, and follow it up with all care.

Blessed is the good soul that keeps herself in true peace! In such a one I abide as in My own kingdom: in her heart I find My delight as on a throne.

My Heart loves to communicate Itself to a tranquil heart; because there Its Inspirations are heard, are fostered, and bring forth fruit.

If thou desirest to commit the fewest faults possible, if thou desirest to derive profit from thy very faults, if thou desirest to practice virtues, in a proper manner, keep thy peace of heart.

If thou wishest usefully to resist the temptations of the devil, and to bring to naught the wicked attempts of hell, be in peace, and continue therein.

3. The enemy,—knowing that he can do little against a soul, so long as she keeps herself in this holy peace,—strives in every way to trouble her.

For this purpose, he sets sometimes every power in motion, and stirs it up: he excites the imagination, he calls out the passions, he suggests many