

Grant me kindly, to make a proper use of the means appointed, that thus I may become a true Disciple of Thy Heart,—ever peaceful in meekness and humbleness of heart.

O Prince of peace, most sweet Jesus! Whose delight it is to reign in a pure and quiet heart; so establish Thy kingdom in my heart that it be never disturbed, but constantly strengthened more and more until Thou admittest me to rule with Thee in heavenly bliss, where, with the Angels and Saints, Thou reignest in peace everlasting.

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## CHAPTER XVII.

THAT THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS, ENTERING UPON HIS PUBLIC LIFE, TEACHES US ZEAL FOR SOULS.

I. *The voice of Jesus.*—My Child, God sent His Son into the world, that the world may be saved by Him.

Do not then wonder, if zeal for souls was ever pressing and incessantly urging on My Heart, that It might spread the kingdom of divine love over the hearts of men, by every means which My heavenly Father had placed at Its disposal.

Hitherto I had remained hidden in solitude, as it were to prepare Myself for the work, and to teach all the Disciples of My Heart that they must first have an ardent zeal for themselves before they can profitably exhibit zeal for their neighbor.

Behold! whilst I was sanctifying Myself for the salvation of souls, how often, and with how great a fervor of Heart, was I wont to pray for them, that they might live for the Lord their God, do no evil, and make progress in virtue!

I also associated with Me Disciples and Apostles, whom, filled with the Spirit of My zeal, I cheered on; to whom I communicated My intentions; upon whom I looked rejoiced in Heart, because they applied themselves strenuously to the salvation of souls.

I went around, teaching, and speaking of the kingdom of God,—seizing every opportunity, in private and in public, to induce men to do better.

The example of My life shone forth, like a light that had risen for a people seated in darkness. For I went about doing good to all, and manifesting to every one the humility and charity of My Heart.

How greatly they were edified and moved when they beheld Me toiling all day for their advantage and salvation; and, in the mean time, frequently withdrawing from the multitude, that, for a little while, I might pray alone! When they learned that, after the labors and journeys of the day—whilst My wearied Apostles refreshed themselves by nightly slumbers—I Myself was wont to spend the night in prayer!

Finally, since all power in heaven and on earth had been given to Me, I employed the same for the exercise of the zeal of My Heart, for the divine glory, for the gaining of souls; and I wrought as many miracles as were necessary and proper for the salvation of all.