

## ✠ Holy Viaticum ✠



THE name of " Holy Viaticum " is given to Holy Communion, when administered to persons who are dangerously ill, in order to prepare them for their passage into eternity.

The word " Viaticum " means : provision for a journey : A proper term by which to designate the Holy Eucharist when administered to those who are in danger of death. For death is a journey ; and the Eucharistic Bread is a divine and appropriate provision for the undertaking of that journey.

Let us then for our greater spiritual profit, consider what the benefits of Holy Viaticum are, and what we should do to obtain from the Lord the grace worthily to receive that most consoling Sacrament before departing this life.

### *Benefits of Holy Viaticum.*

#### *Honour.*

To receive Holy Communion at the approach of death, is a great blessing, since it affords us a great honour.

It is doubtless a great honour for sick people to be visited by a king, or some eminent personage. But how infinitely greater is the honour to those who in their sickness, are visited by the Lord Himself, who is the King of Kings and the Sovereign of Heaven and earth !

When St. Peter Claver had to administer Holy Viaticum to the poor, he went first, when time allowed him to do so, to clean the room the Blessed Sacrament was going to enter, and he perfumed the place with sweet smelling scent and spread over the bed of the sick person a silken cloth, which he carried with him for that purpose.