✠ DO WE REALIZE IT ✠

We all believe that the Blessed Sacrament is the true body and blood, soul and divinity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, under the appearance of bread and wine. Yes; we all believe it but do we realize it?

We can imagine your indignant asseveration, that you do; but have patience and think a little. When you discuss, say, over the breakfast table, some terrible railway accident, earthquake explosion, or any one of the calamities which sometimes startle us in the morning papers, you doubtless feel great sympathy for the sufferers, and, if the account be in a reliable paper, you believe the report of the accident. But do you imagine you have realized it. If you could properly picture to yourself the mangled limbs and the agonies of those unfortunate people, crushed beyond recognition beneath, say, the debris of two express trains, do you imagine you could dismiss the subject from your thoughts at a moment's notice, with a mere: "Dear me! how dreadful"?

Why, if, in cutting your bread, the knife slipped, and made but a slight wound upon your hand, that insignificant occurrence would make more real impression on those present than half-a-dozen accounts of wrecks or of collisions.

So it is with our belief in the Blessed Sacrament: we all beleive in it, believe in it without the shadow of a doubt; but we realize it so lightly, that hours and days pass by without our thinking of its presence in the world. Indeed, many, perhaps who would not dream of missing their Sunday Mass are actuated, if they would but examine themselves, not so much by the desire of coming into the Presence of the Holy Eucharist and of assisting at its sacrifice as by mere habit of obedience to the Church, or through fear of becoming guilty of mortal sin by culpable absence. Not that I depreciate for one moment either of these motives — God forbid! Only, if we realized what we profess to believe, we would require no command from the Church to make us hear Mass, and no threat of incurring the guilt of sin by failing to do so.