



The Virgin and the Viaticum.

IN the first ages of the Church kings and queens considered it an honor to accompany the Blessed Sacrament, whether carried privately as Viaticum, or publicly in solemn procession ; and in order to incite christians to follow their noble exemple, we will relate a wonderful instance in which the Queen of Angels, came down from heaven to accompany the Blessed Eucharist. We select, from among the most admirable prodigies of this nature, one which happened to Blessed Oderic of Port-Mahon, of the seraphic order of St. Francis.

A young girl lay dying, to her great regret deprived of the consolation of receiving Holy Viaticum ; though poor in the world's goods, she was very rich in virtue ; and noted for a special tender loving devotion to our Blessed Lady ; a devotion which won for her, a wonderful grace, in her hour of need.

This good mother seeing the sorrow of her devoted child, came down from heaven accompanied by a number of Blessed spirits and Virgins, and appeared to Blessed Oderic, who was travelling alone in a forest, saying to him : " Near here a faithful child of mine is dying, she ardently desires to receive the Blessed Sacrament, the priest is absent, I wish you to replace him ; I will guide you myself, first to the church, where you will take the Blessed Sacrament, then, to the sick girl's home, as I wish to be present at her last communion."

The priest astonished at the apparition and still more so at the given command acknowledged himself unworthy of such an honor, if one the one hand he rejoiced to strengthen and fortify a soul, a client of our Blessed Lady on her last journey ; on the other he confessed his unworthiness to be guided by the Queen of angels, and