

Corpus Christi.

This solemnity of Corpus Christi was first ordered to be celebrated in a synod held at Liege, in 1246. Pope Urban IV., in 1264, fixed it on the Thursday after the Octave of Whitsunday, commanding it to be observed in the whole church with a solemnity equal to the four great festivals of the year. In bull, which begins: "*Transiturus de hoc mundo*," after having extolled this wonderful sacrament, he delivers himself in these words: "In this most holy commemoration we shed tears, devoutly rejoicing: for our heart all bathed with gladness, causes the eyes to pour forth tears. O the immensity of the divine love? O overflowing divine piety! O most profuse liberality of our God! He had already given us all things: he had conferred upon us the dominion of the creatures upon the earth; and had so exalted us as to appoint his angels to assist us, whom he has sent to minister for them who shall receive the inheritance of salvation.— Though his bounty had been so great, to show it still more, out of the immense charity which he bears us, he hath given himself to us; and surpassing all his other liberalities, exceeding all manner of love, he gives himself to us to be our food. O singular and admirable bounty in which he that gives is the gift, himself. Prodigious is the liberality, when any one gives himself. He bestows himself for our nourishment, to the end that man, who was fallen to death by one kind of food, should be raised to life by another meat: man fell by the mortal apple, and is again raised by the food of the tree of life. On the other tree hung the morsel of our death: on this the nourishment of our life.— The taste of that overthrew us: the taste of this saves us. Behold, how

where the evil has entered, from thence has come the medicine; and from whence death sprang, life has also come forth. It was said of the other meat: The day that thou eatest of it thou shalt die; and it is said of this: He that eats of this bread shall live for ever. O most excellent sacrament! O sacrament worthy to be adored, revered, glorified, honoured, exalted with most singular praises, recommended by the loudest acclamations, entertained in pure and chaste breasts," &c. After many other high encomiums, he exhorts all the Faithful, by their extraordinary devotion on this day, to confound, if possible, the perfidiousness of heretics, and to repair and make amends for all former tepidity in assisting at, or celebrating the Mass, or in receiving the holy communion. He grants also perpetual indulgences, commanding all pastors carefully to give notice, the Sunday before the feast, to all their parishes and dioceses, exhorting them by remonstrances and wholesome discourses, "that," says he, "with a clear and entire confession of their sins, with prayers, alms, and other works of charity and devotion, they may so prepare themselves as to deserve that day to partake of this blessed sacrament, and receive it with reverence, and by it obtain an augmentation of graces. To encourage the Faithful to honour and celebrate this great feast, we grant to all that do confess their sins, and are truly penitent, who shall be found in the church at the Matins of the said feast, one hundred days pardon, and as many to those who shall devoutly assist at Mass, and at the first or second Vespers; likewise, for each of the lesser canonical hours of that day; prime, tierce, none and complin, forty days; and that those who shall be present