te

fe

to

:11

er

75

e

d

munications of the soul with the Well-Beloved uniting Himself sacramentally to her. His idea of the mysterious and divinely transforming operations of Jesus in the soul of the communicant was so elevated and clear that he would have wished to behold Christians coming en masse to quench their thirst in all confidence at the Source of real Life.

I shall extract some passages from his correspondence in which appears what I have already styled in these pages his divination of the future. One must be impressed on reading these lines truly prophetic, by which the servant of God announced the kind of "Eucharistic revolution" that is marking our own day.

"Society," he writes, June 6, 1881, "is rushing with rapid strides toward paganism. Even in Christian souls, faith and the supernatural life are becoming weaker day by day. The young dream only of pleasure, freedom from every yoke, the satisfaction of every desire. How react against all this? What remedy can be opposed to this general evil? Corpus Domini nostri Jesu Christi! The Eucharist alone can save the world, as of old the Cross of Calvary of which the Eucharist is the perpetual memorial."

"But," he adds, "to go to the Eucharist souls have need to be urged. More than ever is it a case to which applies the compelle intrare of the Gospel. Jansenism has been too successful in inspiring fear of the Eucharist. It has succeeded in removing souls from It. The Church calls them back to It. She has never ceased to exhort them to approach Him who is the Way, the Truth and the Life. But a call still more special, still more solemnly pressing is necessary. In the midst of the general apathy, the voice of the Vicar of Christ must be raised, saying to the world, crying to souls: "Go to Communion!"

Frequently in his letters he returns to this thought. In some of them he is still more specific.

"Pray, pray," he says, "that the Pope may resolve to say the word, to send forth throughout the world the all-saving word of command inspired by Jesus, the invitation of the Father of the family to all His children, that they