

love and wonder with St. Paul, "O the depths of the riches of the wisdom and of the knowledge of God. How incomprehensible are His judgments and unsearchable His ways." Romans xi, 33. Now the Catholic temple is the proper place for the oblation of this saving and tremendous sacrifice, and it is for this purpose that it is primarily intended and built. Everything in a Catholic Church has reference to the Sanctuary, the Sanctuary has reference to the altar, and the altar to the august sacrifice that is offered upon it; so that it is it, and it alone, that gives a meaning and a value to the style and beauty and all the glory of Catholic ecclesiastical architecture and ceremonial.

The Catholic Church is for us the house of God and the gate of heaven, because it is there, principally and usually, the great ordinances instituted by Christ, for our salvation and sanctification, are carried out. Christ perpetually lives and works in the Catholic temple for our salvation. In the sermons preached therein He is the abiding teacher; in the sacraments administered therein He constantly exercises the office of our Redeemer. In baptism He receives children into His holy communion, and incorporates them into His mystic body. In confirmation He strengthens and equips them for the christian conflict. In penance He pardons the repentant sinner and receives the prodigal son back again into his father's house. In the Eucharist He feeds the weary pilgrims of the world, the travellers through the desert of life, with the bread of heaven, and gives them strength to reach the promised land. In matrimony He blesses and sanctifies the nuptial union, and consecrates the human family as the foundation of christian society. In holy orders He ordains priests, blesses and sanctifies them and appoints them His ambassadors and the dispensers of His mysteries of grace. Into the church the poor dead body is brought by loving hands, and the holy sacrifice is offered up for the repose of the soul that is gone, and the *Requiem* and the *Libera* ascend in plaintive accents before God, pleading for pity and pardon,