

you bend to more heartily. Is it too much to ask you to use this shrewdness in your seeking for what is more lasting than dollars—God's grace?

Why this strange inconsistency? You realize the need of dollars; you do not realize the need of God's grace.

And yet these are not the only proofs of your ignorance of your daily needs. There is another more startling proof still. Some of you openly say, "I do not feel the need of daily Communion." Now, you either know your need or you do not know it. Let us say you do not know your need. May not that need still exist? Was not the man who went down to Jericho ignorant of his enemies? Did his ignorance weaken their power? Rather did not his ignorance strengthen them? For they took him by surprise and left him for dead on the roadside.

But you may insist that my answer does not touch your objection to frequent Communion, because your reasons for staying away are not based on ignorance of your needs. You will tell me that you know well the strength of the world, the flesh, and the devil; and you will say that on less frequent Communion you have been able to persevere thus far; not without failures, 'tis true, but still without mortal sin. More than this; you will point to the saints who practised heroic virtue on less frequent Communion. You may bring forward the example of St Aloysius spending three days in preparation and three days in thanksgiving for each Communion. You will cite the examples of other saints not less illustrious for their innocence of life—a Stanislaus or a Berchmans.

These seem strong arguments, to be sure, and I shall not attempt to deny what history and your own experience plainly state as facts. But there is a sophism lurking here which has deceived souls more subtle than yours.

Granted that some saints went to Holy Communion but once a week. Their example applies to you if you are a Berchmans or a Stanislaus. But you know you are neither. You know some saints are more to be admired than imitated. Berchman's fasts, whole days, you admire but do you imitate? Aloysius scourges his innocent