

"I do not know whether I have offended Him, but—my father would know."

"If you had offended Him, all that is required is that you should repent and ask God's pardon. Jesus provided for this also, and for this end instituted the sacrament called *Penance*, or *Confession*."

And thus, one after the other, I instructed him about all the Sacraments. When I explained to him in what the Sacrament of Confession consists:

"How good is Jesus," he observed. "Oh, who would not love Him! Why have I not known Him sooner? I would have loved Him with my whole heart! But for the future I will love Him always, because He is my Brother, because He died for me," and so saying he wiped away the hot tears from his eyes.

He was very happy when he heard that in a short time I would give him Confirmation, that before he died he should also have Extreme Unction; but what touched him most was the Catholic doctrine of the sacrament of the Eucharist. I see him still, as if he were here, opening wide his eyes in astonishment at my explanation, and I seem to hear him again exclaiming:

"How is that? Jesus our food? The Son of God our food? Oh, how beautiful! Jesus in a little bread? How wonderful it must be to see it! Oh! how small Jesus must be! And He allows all to receive Him? even me?"

"Yes, He not only allows it, but He desires it, and obliges us to receive Him, saying: 'I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If any man eat of this bread he shall live for ever. My Flesh is meat indeed and My Blood is drink indeed. He that eateth My Flesh and drinketh My Blood abideth in me and I in him, and he that doth not eat It shall not have life in him.'" These are His words. As you see, He urges us to receive Him,

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