

Pharisees alone could find matter therein for scandal. But as Our Lord Jesus Christ, when dying on the Cross, a Victim for us all, made no account of pharisaical scandal, so you ought not to allow yourself to be restrained by this scandal, and so give up receiving the "Bread of Life" under pretext that you cannot communicate, because it is necessary to remain in church for the preparation and the thanksgiving.

I have said to you that only our modern Pharisees could find therein matter of scandal. For, unless of their number, how could one be scandalized at seeing a person who, *in the impossibility of doing otherwise*, just arrived at church, present himself respectfully and devoutly to receive the consecrated Host; then, having received, remain some time humbly prostrate in prayer, and go to fulfil the duties of his state and discharge the urgent labors of his condition?

And who would he be that would act in this manner? Some poor laborer, obliged to earn the daily bread for his family by the sweat of his brow; a married woman who owes obedience to her husband; the mother of a family whose little ones are awaiting her return; a young girl under the care of her parents; or, in fine, a servant who cannot neglect his duties. And, think you, that they who see such a one are ignorant of his situation? At all events, they ought to suppose it!

Do you know, Christian soul, what would with good reason disedify and give real scandal! It would be, for instance, to see a priest indulging in the sacristy in useless and frivolous discourse before and after the celebration of the Holy Sacrifice, instead of preparing devoutly in the church itself, and afterward piously making his thanksgiving therein. Or again, you would not edify if, on going to church, or during the little time you spend there, or when returning to your home, some moments after having communicated, you should begin to converse with a companion, above all should you intersperse your conversation with fault-finding, tittle-tattle, detraction, etc. But just as a priest, far from giving scandal, always edifies and gives good example even without remaining in the holy place neither before nor after devoutly celebrating the Holy Sacrifice, if he is called to