

The Life of the World

Our holy faith teaches us, that after the consecration, our Lord Jesus Christ, true God and true man, is truly, really, and substantially contained under the outward appearances of the bread and wine; and that under each kind is contained Jesus Christ, whole and entire, his body and blood, his soul and divinity.

The *first* proof of this presence of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist is taken from what is related in the sixth chapter of St. John's gospel, where we are told, that after the great miracle of feeding five thousand men with five loaves and fishes, our Saviour went over to the other side of the lake, and that the next morning the multitude missing him, went over after him: and, when they found him, he took occasion, from the impression which that miracle had made upon their minds, to bring on the discourse about the heavenly food which he was to give to the world in the Holy Eucharist, and said, "labour not for the meat that perisheth, but for that which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man will give you?" v, 27. Here he declares, that the meat he was to give was such as would bring eternal life. Their curiosity being, by these words, raised to know more about this heavenly food, they asked a sign by which they might believe him, and wished to know if the food he spoke of was better than the manna which God gave their fathers from heaven in the desert. "Then Jesus said to them, Amen, amen, I say to you, Moses gave you not bread from heaven, but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven; for the bread of God is that which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life to the world," v, 32.