

world became the fountain of Living Waters by the sprinkling of Whose Blood our souls were vivified and healed. It will suggest to us the deep stains and grievous defilements which sin would imprint upon the soul, and which should be washed away by the tears of the sinner, and the bloody sweat of his dying Saviour. When we prepare to go up into the temple of the Lord, and to adore Him in His dread sanctuary, 'in the place where his feet have stood,' we know that we are ascending to the house of sacrifice, as well as the house of prayer. According to the Apostolic injunction, we know that we should 'draw near with a true heart in fulness of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with clean water;' (Heb. x, 22.) and what can more forcibly remind us of this obligation than the Holy Water Font placed at the very entrance of the temple, silently protesting against the sacrilegious entrance of the unclean, and powerfully proclaiming to all, that as the house of prayer is the image of Heaven, 'nothing that is defiled, should ever enter there?' What more calculated to realize the wish of the Apostle, (1 Tim. II. 8.) 'that men should pray, lifting up pure hands?

But, most of all, when we remember the great Catholic dogma of the Real Presence of our Blessed Lord in the Eucharist, and that, in going to His Holy Temple, we are approaching the Palace of the King of Heaven, the 'Tabernacle of God with men,' the Holy of Holies in which the Majesty of the Lord is really, though invisibly, present;—when we remember all this on the one hand, and our own miserable and sinful defilements on the other, if we are tempted to despair, or terrified by our unworthiness, the Holy Water Font, at the porch, instructs and consoles us, and points our attention to that Precious Fountain, in whose living and salutary waters, we can, if we will, bathe our sinful souls. If again, without due reflection, or serious thought, we rush at once from all the bustle and temptation of the world to the peaceful Sanctuary of God; if, in hastening to the Holy Sacrifice, and to the Great Supper of the Lamb, we forget that it is only with His true Disciples He will celebrate His Pasch; if, with hearts defiled by uncleanness, we attempt to bring Belial face to face with Christ, and try to obtrude our wicked