

They had arrived close to the fortress of Emmaus, the end of their flight, and the Lord made as though He would go further, when He desired most to remain. He wished that their desires should constrain Him, and their pleadings oblige Him, though He Himself had voluntarily drawn near to them, for He desires to be implored in the progress of virtue, just as a mother compels her infant to walk by leaving it alone, that it may lose all fear. On seeing Him so human, when He was most Divine, they asked Him to remain with them, not inviting Him, as the world does, merely for compliment's sake, but with importunity. He answers them that He has far to go, for in retiring from a soul He goes far indeed, the distance being great from sin to God.

Arise quickly, my soul ! for the Divine Spouse passes to others more fortunate, because more fervent ; it is necessary to implore Him, for it is most important to detain Him. If these disciples, who knew Him not, thus esteemed Him, you who by faith know Who He is endeavour to receive Him tenderly. They judged Him to be a stranger ; you know Him to belong to you. Beseech Him to enter, not only with you, under your roof, but within your very bosom ; invite Him, for in the end it will be all at His cost, as He provides the food, you the desire ; and thus you will obtain eternal life.

### *After Communion.*

The Lord quickly condescended, for His delight is to be with the children of men ; they sit at the table with Christ in their midst, their joy equalling the favour. They place bread in His Hands, and rightly, for it was always found in them. Christ raised His eyes to Heaven, that it might be leavened bread and Divine ; and on His breaking it, their eyes were opened, and they recognised Him as their Master, but in that instant He vanished from their sight, for in this life He is as a dart of lightning ; and in the next He is the eternal Sun, being both light and consolation. He left them with honey on their lips, and that miraculous Bread as a substitute in His absence, leaving them envious at not having possessed the joy of knowing Him before, wishing that they had