

very insignificant portions of the earth's surface, and the thirty-three years of Christ's life among men were in duration as nothing compared to the decades of centuries which down to this day have elapsed since man was first established in his earthly abode, the scene of his temporal probation. And yet Christ's mission was not one which any given generation could claim as its own, nor any one nation arrogate to the exclusion of other peoples or races. It was for all time, all persons and all places. The Church founded upon Peter, and the Sacraments with which Christ enriched that Church, for the spiritual life and sanctification of her members, were to endure unto the end.

But if this be so, how is it that at the moment of Christ's death so little seemed to have been accomplished by the Saviour in person? Leo XIII., in his encyclical, explains in his own words what Scripture, and the Fathers, and the Doctors of the Church have ever set forth as an answer: "The Redeemer of men, in the prosecution of His inscrutable designs, did not so will that He Himself should carry out that mission fully, and bring it to its final completion in every quarter of the world; but after having received His commission from His Father, He transmitted it to the Holy Ghost, that the Holy Ghost might crown the work."

It was a glorious but a sad day when Christ ascended into heaven, for the Apostles were never again to see him in the flesh; and in their bereavement they had but one consolation, the words of the Master spoken in view of that very separation: "Because I have spoken these things to you, sorrow hath filled your heart. But I tell you the truth: it is expedient to you that I go: for if I go not, the Paraclete will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you" (John, xvi, 6,8). In that same discourse He had already told them: "I will ask the Father, and He shall give you another Paraclete, that He may abide with you forever" (Ib. xiv, 16).

And that Paraclete that was to abide with them forever