

consecration, if you open the tabernacle, what will you find. Something frail and helpless, something humble and little in appearance ; the Eternal become the Being of a day : the Immense confined in the small dimensions of a host ; the Infinite occupying scarcely an iota in space.

St Augustine says, it is the Child's nature to be silent. Here the Word is silent ; the living and uncreated Word mute. Here again Jesus is wrapped in swaddling-clothes, as formerly in the manger : look at the corporal spread out on the altar, or in the tabernacle, at the white species veiling Him in the Sacrament and see the swaddling-clothes of the Host, the Eucharistic swaddling-clothes of His love with which the priest covers Him at the consecration. Behold that priest especially the first time he performs that sacred function ; the first time he celebrates this august mystery : his heart throbs with the same emotions as the Virgin Mother's, his hand trembles, he scarcely dares touch the sacred Host, his God, he falls on his knees, he adores : yet, he can say with the Eternal Father : Thou art my well-beloved Son, it is I who have just begotten Thee here.

Finally He is laid in a manger, at Bethlehem which in Hebrew means — house of peace. — Is not the Church another Bethlehem, a new house of peace ? The sanctuary is the stable, the tabernacle the manger, and the ciborium is it not another crib holding the flesh of the Son of God, the Food of Souls, the Living Bread conferring immortality.

Alas ! and as a new point of resemblance, how many churches as bare as the stable ; how many tabernacles as poor and neglected as the manger ; how many vestments and ornaments bespeaking general indifference, lack of reverence. To work then, dear readers, to work for the Eucharistic Infant, and for the beauty of His abiding-places.

If the signs and circumstances are alike, the effects are absolutely the same. This second birth of Christ gives as much glory to God as that first. If in holy Mass and by Communion it procures for man so many graces, so much happiness, in the tabernacle itself, where He abides night and day, what adoration, what prayer, what reparation, what thanksgiving does He not continually