

4. If you ask one of these silly little people why they are so much afraid, the answer will, perhaps, be: "Why, how can I tell my sins to the priest? Who knows but he may speak of them to somebody else?"

Foolish little girl or boy! have you never heard that one of the saints suffered martyrdom rather than reveal what had been told him in confession?

5. A wicked emperor, who suspected his wife of a great crime, wished to have her confessor tell whether she was guilty or not. But the saint replied that no priest could speak to any one of what was told him in confession, and that he could not even tell whether the empress was innocent or not.

6. Hearing this, the tyrant was so enraged that he ordered the holy man to be thrown into the Muldaw, which was the name of the sea near his palace. It was done accordingly, and the good St. John Nepomucine went cheerfully to death rather than disclose the secret of confession. And so it is to-day. The ministers appointed by Jesus Christ to reconcile the sinner with Him, are never known, never have been known, to tell what they hear in confession.