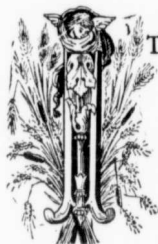


but Thou wilt open my eyes and send me away enlightened, strengthened and refreshed, I believe it, and I love Thee all the more for the sweet, kind way Thou hast of drawing my heart to higher things.

Bless us all, dear Lord, as we come to Thee and as we go, not from Thee, but with Thee to do our little task. We have but one desire, that of pleasing Thee to-day in preparation for the invitation to the Banquet to-morrow.



Eucharistic Training of Children



It would be an error to consider little children incapable of acquiring a knowledge of, and a devotion for, the Blessed Sacrament until they possess enough mental development for making their first Confession. Anyone who reflects attentively upon the kind of process that a child has to go through for making Confessions will see that these suppose a fairly full measure of reason. It is hardly possible to prepare a child for the Sacrament unless this stage of mental growth has been reached. Not so in the case of the Holy Eucharist. The now abandoned discipline of the Early Church, according to which Holy Communion was given to senseless infants, fresh from the baptismal font plainly proves the distinction here made. For it shows that use of reason is not, *in the nature of things* needed at all. A very small child, unless decidedly "wanting", is—as experience constantly shows—capable of grasping the substance of Eucharistic teaching. And it will be the earnest aim of every conscientious Catholic mother to "prepare the way of the Lord" into the souls of her offspring by familiarising the child's mind with the Church, the altar and the tabernacle with its Divine Occupant. Let the earliest impressions of one who is, first of all, the child of God, and secondly, the child of its mother, be Eucharistic ones.