

very place where He dwells. There is the altar of God, burning lights are around it, flowers decorate it, devout worshippers surround it, and all invites the soul to pray. But what are the lights and flowers compared to Him who is present in their midst? The Lord of Glory, the Blessed Saviour Himself, is there. He has come down on that altar to offer Himself for us; to pray to His heavenly Father by His wounds and Blood most effectually for us, and to remain in our midst to hear our prayers and talk with us face to face.

Thus, Sunday is the time, and the Church is the place for the soul's weekly rest. The good laborer, who longs for God's love, will not pass it by. God in His mercy has commanded that we should take advantage of it. « Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy. » The Sabbath has given place to the Christian Sunday, but the obligation of keeping one day in the week holy, remains the same. We are bound by the law of God to do so. But in what way are Christians required to keep the day holy, in order that they may not sin against this law? — We are required to abstain from servile or hard labor, that is to say, from labor of the hands, and to assist at the Holy Mass.

Yet, we must understand what is meant by being forbidden to work on Sundays. Necessary work, such as belongs to the good order of the house — cooking, making beds, sweeping and putting things in order, is not forbidden. The care of the sick is a necessary and charitable work. Sometimes, unless work is done, valuable property would go to destruction. In all these cases work must be done; and it would be displeasing to God should you refuse to do it on the plea that it is wrong to work on the Sunday. Indeed, as a general rule, the mistress of the house is the proper judge of what is necessary and what not. She knows many reasons that you do not know, and it is not proper to make her give an account of everything to those in her employment. That would be upsetting the order of things that the Lord has established when He says, « Servants, be obedient unto your masters according to the flesh. » (Eph. 6-5.) So, if anything of no very great importance comes up, do it cheerfully; and, depend upon it, the