

A tender nursling on his mother's breast, Unto the hallowed temple of the Lord, She bore him daily in her visits blest To worship (sinless babe!) our souls' Adored.

The little one assisted gravely there
At Eucharistic functions; with delight
Beheld the Mass, the Host, the Monstrance fair,
The flow'rs and tapers on the altar bright.

His infant heart, aglow with fond desire,
Would fain have pierced that mystic DwellingTo nestle close to Jesus – all a-fire,
To listen to the whispers of His grace.

For there he learned the secret of the King, The Master calling to the Marriage-feast; And heard the Holy Spirit summoning To serve Him as His own anointed priest.

And there, in time, our Blessed Lady came, A radiant vision, to dispel his fears, And manifest to him in words of flame The glorious mission of his riper years.

"The mysteries" (she said) " of Christ, my Son, Have honored been by blest Societies: The Holy Eucharist alone hath none— Be thine to do It homage like to these!"

'Twas thus began at Fourvières' old shrine
The life-work of this pure and gifted soul:
To give adorers to the Host divine,
And spread Its love and praise from pole to pole.

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A burning thurible, his glowing heart
Sent forth its odorous sweets by day and night,
Employing every power with tender art
To win all men unto the Lord of Light.



