

long and fervent prayer, St. Thomas put his own opinion on the subject into writing, and laid the document on the altar of the Blessed Sacrament. Then kneeling, he breathed this simple, touching prayer: "Lord Jesus, Who art truly present and dost work wonders in this adorable Sacrament, I implore of Thee that, if what I have written be the truth, Thou wilt enable me to teach it, but that if it contains anything contrary to the truth, Thou wilt hinder me from proceeding further in declaring it." "Then," adds the Dominican annalist: "then the other Friars, who were watching, beheld our Lord Himself descend and stand upon the manuscript; and they heard from His divine lips the words: 'Thomas, thou hast written well concerning the Sacrament of My Body.'"

When, at last, after his long and fervent life of devotion to the Blessed Eucharist, the solemn hour of death drew near, and the Holy Viaticum was brought to him, St. Thomas raised himself to his knees, the tears raining down his cheeks at the sight of the divine Object of his affections. In a clear, distinct voice, he cried out: "I receive Thee, the price of my soul's ransom; I receive Thee, the viaticum of my soul's pilgrimage: for whom I have studied, watched and labored, preached and taught." Just before receiving the Sacred Host, it is said that he uttered his favorite ejaculation, which he had been wont to use at the Elevation of the Mass: "Thou, O Christ, art the King of glory; Thou art the everlasting Son of the Father!"

