

wish of the Curé of Ars was to establish this pious practice in his parish. His tender piety could not bear to see the divine Redeemer descend each morning among His own and not be welcomed by numerous grateful worshippers, while his priestly heart sorrowed at thinking of the many precious graces his parishoners deprived themselves of, so close to the source yet neglecting to draw therefrom. So, he used all his persuasive eloquence to show them this source flowing every morning at Mass in order to induce them to drink of its waters, while explaining to them in burning words the numerous graces to be derived from the Mass, in order to induce them to prize and gather them.

*Graces of Conversion.* — "Do you wish," said he, "to change your life, that is to say renounce sin to return to God? Then hear Masses for that intention and you are sure, if you hear them devoutly, that God will help you to cast off your sin, even were you more obdurate than the Jews, blinder than the Gentiles, harder than the rocks which were rent at the death of Jesus Christ. Let me illustrate by an example. A young girl, beautiful and accomplished, had the misfortune to fall into a sinful life which she led remorselessly for a number of years. One practice of piety she clung to tenaciously more on account of the promise given to her dying mother, whom she tenderly loved, than through any religious sentiment; this was to hear Mass every Saturday. While fulfilling her promise she was suddenly seized with uncontrollable, fear at her guilty state. Immediately after Mass, she went and asked the priest to intercede for her that she might be converted. He, having heard of her evil life, asked her what had brought about this wonderful change. "Father," she replied, "My mother on her death-bed made me promise to hear mass every Saturday. This morning while fulfilling her request the thought of my guilt overwhelmed me with such horror, that I could bear the agony no longer and I have come to ask you to help me." — "O my God," exclaimed the priest, "behold a soul converted by the merits of holy Mass." The Council of Trent asserts with reason that Mass appeases the anger of God and converts sinners.