

After this long period of His hidden life Our Lord at length entered upon His public career. It lasted three years. He preached to the people everywhere ; He taught them the way of salvation and scattered His benefactions in all directions ; in a word as St. Paul tells us, " He went about doing good." Does He not perform similar good deeds in the Blessed Sacrament? Does He not scatter His graces broadcast from the tabernacle? Oh, how many wise and salutary lessons does He not inculcate upon those who visit Him there or receive Him at the holy table! How many graces, how many temporal and spiritual benefits He bestows upon them from His altar-throne! Here He abides in silence and solitude ; here He watches through the day and through the night—often in greatest solitude and loneliness, as in Judea—and covers His benefactions even with a more impenetrable veil ; for no man can conceive how grand how varied, how powerful, how beneficent, how far-reaching in their effects are the silent and hidden operations of the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus in the hearts of those millions who seek refuge at the altar or present themselves at the holy table. Here He endures with even greater meekness and humility than in Judea the countless insults that are inflicted upon Him by those who look with disdain and malice upon this sacred mystery. Let me call your particular attention to another great advantage which the Real Presence of our dear Lord in the Blessed Sacrament offers us in comparison with his public life on earth. When in those days He dwelt for instance, in a city by the Sea of Genesareth, He could not be found at the same time in Jerusalem ; or while He was in Bethany, He could not be seen simultaneously by people in Nazareth. But now, in the Blessed Sacrament He dwells at the same moment, simultaneously, in many places.

Following the three years of Our Lord's public life comes His bitter passion and death. Oh would that our blessed Lord had not to endure similar sufferings in the Most Holy Sacrament on account of so many who like Judas, receive Him in a sacrilegious manner ; on account of so many unfaithful disciples, who either betray Him or deny Him ; on account of so many blasphemous people, who abuse the Blessed Sacrament by cursing and