

itual or temporal; and (4) of thanksgiving for benefits received. In the Old Law these four objects of sacrifice were all attained by the offering up of sacrifices of various kinds. But the sacrifice of the Mass, as the Council of Trent teaches, "is that oblation which was prefigured by various types of sacrifices during the period of nature and of the law; inasmuch as it comprises all the good things signified by those sacrifices, as being the consummation and perfection of them all!"

This holy sacrifice gives infinite honour and glory to God, it causes inexpressible joy to the angels and saints in heaven, brings down untold graces and blessings on men, it brings light, refreshment and peace to the souls in purgatory.

If all the prayers of loving hearts from the beginning of the world, and all the seraphic worship of the thrones and principalities in heaven, and the burning devotion and love of the Virgin Mother of God and the million voices of the universe, of all creatures in heaven and earth, and sea, were offered up in one universal and harmonious act of praise and adoration, they would not equal or even approach in value and efficacy the infinite worth of a single Mass. In considering it we may well exclaim with St. Paul, "O the depth of the riches of the wisdom and of the knowledge of God: How incomprehensible are his judgments and how unsearchable his ways." (Romans xi.: 33). We should therefore have the greatest devotion, veneration and love for this adorable sacrifice, we should never fail to assist at it, piously and reverently, on all Sundays and holidays of obligation, we should try betimes to hear it even on week days, especially during Advent and Lent, and should not forget to have it offered, as the occasion and our piety may require, for the eternal rest of the faithful departed.

The Sacrament of Mercy.

The Sacrament of Penance is another wondrous institution of God's tender mercy and compassion for sinners, and it is a most powerful and efficacious means of salvation. Through this divine Sacrament the truly penitent are forgiven the most