

sacramental presence, and thus to give the finishing stroke to the work of our salvation. As He had come down on earth to put on our mortal flesh without leaving His Father, so now He wished to return to His Father without leaving His disciples, He thus gave proof of how strongly He was bound by the ties of love to His disciples, since He could not make up His mind to part from them even in death. *My delights to be with the children of men.*—But if Jesus cannot for an instant be at a distance from His ungrateful creatures, how is it possible for us to be so little anxious to betake ourselves to His loving presence in the Blessed Sacrament, where He awaits our coming and offers Himself to us, to be our guide, our physician, our consolation and our strength! *Come to me, all ye that labor and are burdened, and I will refresh you.*—

There is a further and still greater refinement of love in the circumstance of the particular time of the institution, on which the Apostle dwells: *The same night on which He was betrayed.*—Thus contrasting an excess of treachery with an excess of love, and causing the light of His goodness to shine forth all the more brilliantly amid the darkness of human malice: *The light shineth in darkness.*—Is it not enough to make one shudder to see men plotting against the life of Jesus in order to drive Him far from them, whilst He, on that memorable night, is contriving by such wondrous means to remain with them on earth? To see Him spreading a banquet of Heavenly delights for His disciples on that very night when He was about to be betrayed by one, denied by another, and abandoned by all of them into the hands of His enemies? We should learn from these instances of such surpassing love, to return good for evil! and to love them who hate us.

All this is still more remarkable when we consider that when Jesus instituted this most holy Sacrament He foresaw that the only return He would receive for this excess of love in our regard would be an excess in the opposite direction of the most disgraceful treatment at the hands of men. He foresaw how His Sacred Body would be trampled under foot by unbelievers, and insulted in the most shameful way; and, what is still worse, how amongst the faithful themselves, who profess to