

Christmas and the Eucharist

FROM

Père Eymard's Noel et L'Eucharistie

*Hodie parvulus natus est nobis.
For a Child is born to us.*

(Isaïas IX. 6.)



LOVELY Feast, Feast of the Birth of the Saviour ! — We always hail it with joy. It lives again by our love, It is continued by the Eucharist. The relations between Bethlehem and the Cenacle are inseparable, one is the complement of the other. Let us study them to-day.

The Eucharist was sown at Bethlehem. What is the Eucharist, if not the Wheat of the Elect, the Living Bread ? Now, wheat is sown. It must be buried in the earth, it must germinate, ripen until the harvest, when it is ready to be made into nourishing bread.

Born to-day on the straw of the stable, the Word prepared His Eucharist, which He looked upon as the complement of all His mysteries. He came to unite Himself to man During His life, He established with him the union of grace, the union of example and of merits. But in the Eucharist alone, He was to consummate the most perfect union of which man is capable in this life. We must not lose sight of this divine idea, this end which Our Lord proposed to Himself, if we would comprehend the divine plan : union of grace through the mysteries of His life and death ; union of person in the Eucharist, both the one and the other preparing the consummation of unity in glory.

As the traveller who has one end in view, never loses sight of it, as all his steps tend toward it, so in all His life, Our Lord was secretly and in advance preparing the Eucharist.

This celestial Wheat was, as it were, sown in Bethle-