

# The Catholic Record.

"Christianus mihi nomen est, Catholicus vero Cognomen."—(Christian is my Name, but Catholic my Surname).—St. Pacian, 4th Century.

VOLUME XVIII.

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NO. 901.

## PAULIST MISSION TO NON-CATHOLICS.

A Large Congregation Present and Much Earnestness Shown in Seeking After the Truth.—Some of the Numerous Questions Asked.

On Sunday evening last the Rev. Father Elliot, C. S. P., opened a mission at the Paulist Church, 59th street and Columbus avenue, New York, and which was intended solely for non-Catholics. Long before the hour of opening, 8 o'clock, the church was pretty near full, and by the time that the pulpit was occupied standing-room was only at the disposal of those who came late. A cordial invitation was extended to non-Catholics, and if Catholics put in an appearance they were accommodated with a seat provided they were accompanied by a Protestant friend. But this was not so in every case, and when the crowd became pressing those of the Catholics who came were accommodated with seats in the left hand aisle. Everything was religious and nothing of a controversial nature was imported to disturb the consciences of the too sensitive. The services were conducted after the fashion of ordinary services in any Protestant church. There was general prayer; then the hymn "Come Holy Spirit," in which all joined; next a reading of a portion of Scripture from St. John, first chapter; then two hymns suitable to the occasion, and subsequently a sound, instructive and wherewithal a most touching and appropriate discourse on the happiness of being united to God. Then there was another hymn, "Nearer, My God, to Thee," and the blessing brought the services to a close.

**THE QUESTIONS.**  
A notable feature of this mission was the question box for the receipt of honest and conscientious questions about the religion and practices of the Catholic Church, and which the Rev. Fathers answered most sincerely and honestly, and it may be added fully to the satisfaction of those who asked them.

On Sunday night there were but two of these questions asked, and both came by mail. The first was a question concerning a vision which it is said a holy man was favored with during Mass, the Mass being said by an unworthy priest, and in which vision our Blessed Redeemer appeared as a little infant in the Holy Communion. The question proper was: "How can it be that what was bread and wine can turn into a little child?" In answering, Father Elliot said: "Just how it can be I do not know. I do not know how our Saviour can be really present in the Holy Communion, and therefore I cannot tell how. For example, my heart beats and keeps on beating, the muscles keep acting, but I cannot tell how a voluntary muscle acts for that matter. I look at my arm; the fingers of my hand I see up and down, yet I know the image of them placed on my eye is upside down. But how does it get to my soul upside down when it falls upon my visual organs upside down?"

Now, with regard to these visions, Catholics are not required to believe in them. They may be true or not; there are and have been true visions, but whether true or not Catholics are not bound to decide. As to our Blessed Redeemer being really and physically present, it is the doctrine of the Catholic Church. This fact we know to be so, because Christ the Lord says so, and what He says, it is real.

He took the bread into His hands and blessed and broke it, and gave to His disciples, saying: 'Take and eat ye all of this, for this is My body. Likewise the cup, saying: 'Drink ye all of this; for this is My blood of the New and Eternal Testament; the mystery of faith which shall be shed for you and for many unto the remission of sins.'

You can find the account given in St. Paul to the Corinthians, eleventh chapter; also in the account of the Last Supper given by the evangelists, Matthew, Mark, Luke. Then, again, take the common universal belief of all Christians for fifteen hundred years, unbroken scarcely by a murmur against it, and you will hardly say that God would fail of success; that He would stumble, as it were, at the very first step in His religion. It would be a most utter delusion. We believe upon the word of Jesus Christ that He is really present in Holy Communion, but how He works this miracle I do not know.

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Gregory, Ont. 900-2

**WANTED.**  
SCHOOL SECTION  
male or female  
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