

*"My Mother and my Brethren."*

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Behold in the Blessed Sacrament the Holy Child, who was subject at Nazareth to Mary and Joseph. The Tabernacle is now His Nazareth. And who are His father and mother? In answer, He seems to stretch forth His hands towards us, saying: "Behold My mother and My brethren. For whosoever, shall do the will of My Father that is in Heaven, the same is My brother, and sister, and mother."

What an example He gives us in this new and abiding Nazareth of doing the will of His Father that is in Heaven. For here He is subject to us, whom He calls His mother and His brethren. He calls us so, alas, beyond our deserts; for are we ever wholly willing to learn of Him and to be His disciples? It was towards His disciples that He first stretched out His hand and cried: "Behold My mother and My brethren." He is subject to us, He says, because we are His disciples; but is it not rather that we may become His disciples; that we may learn of Him in this His perfect meekness and humility of Heart?

This sacramental Nazareth is the Hidden Life indeed; the life of poverty, of weakness, of humiliation, of service, nay, of servitude. "How little is the Lord," says St. Bernard, "and greatly to be loved."

We call Him Lord and Master, and we do well, for so He is. Yet He says to us: "I will not now—now that I have given you My Body to be the food of your souls—I will not now call you servants, for the servant knoweth not what his master doth." He calls us more than friends; He says: "Behold My mother and My brethren." And is it not true? By the power of the Holy Ghost He is, as it were, born again upon the altars of our Mother the Church, whose members we are.

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