

THE FILIPINOS' FAITH.

Reverence for the Blessed Sacrament is the unflinching of a vital faith. A story told by Father Berbrugge, a missionary in the Philippines, shows that whatever else they may lack, the Filipinos still possess a strong and earnest faith. The missionary tells of a beautiful practice which exists among the inhabitants:

"One day I was called out to administer the Viaticum, but I had no need to ask the road. 'When the bell rings,' I was told, 'go to the church, prepare yourself for a public Viaticum, and you have only to follow the crowd.' Nearly two hundred children were waiting for me. As soon as I began to walk with the Blessed Sacrament they started the rosary. Wherever we passed through the village, doors flew open and scores of women came out with candles and followed me. There soon was a crowd of at least five hundred people. The house of the sick person lay about a mile and a half outside the village. It was a very poor thatched hut, surely not much better than the stable in Bethlehem, but for a distance of fifty yards bamboo mats were spread, the house was hung with clean white cloth, and next to the sick bed a little altar was made nicely decorated with pictures, statues and flowers. All the neighbors, as is customary here, had come to help and had brought their contribution for the decoration, and when I looked out over the people praying so fervently, the poor little hut changed into a clean, pure, white chapel. I said to myself, 'no, the faith is not dead here. It requires only good and zealous priests to raise this people'. It was all so simple beautifully expressive of faith in the Holy Sacrament of Christ's love."

Christ's Mission unto men is begun by truth, worked out by holiness, and only fulfilled by union with Himself. That union is full, complete as can be upon earth, when Christ's own life lives by His Eucharist, within our own.

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