

telling Tobias the secret of overcoming the monster, inspired him with strength and courage by his words and looks, but we may also believe that he communicated to him supernatural strength to undertake something beyond his ordinary powers. O Christian soul! never forget that you are traversing an enemy's country, that you carry a hidden treasure and that a thousand robbers ambushed to left and right, are waiting to deprive you of it. The false charms of the world, the snares it sets at every step for innocence and virtue, and to which its science and experience are applied, the league of the wicked against all that is high and holy: these are snares indeed, spread for unwary feet."

"Whose would live piously in Jesus Christ," says the Scripture, "must suffer persecution." Yet there are other snares still, a combat more terrible, that the soul must wage with the evil one, a combat full of surprises and mortal dangers that flesh and blood alone were powerless to overcome. St. Paul says: "We fight not alone against flesh and blood, but against powers and principalities

O my God, how often surprised and wounded we cry out that we are lost! What shall we do? Where find refuge but in Thee? "Jesus save me, I perish!" Let us cry out to our divine Raphael, with a loud voice, and with an unshaken confidence, and Jesus, the Defender, the Conqueror, will be at hand to save us. Do you not know that the Holy Eucharist is the bread of victory? Do you not know that Jesus remains with us in the Eucharist to be ever our Defender against Satan?

When Jesus instituted the Blessed Sacrament at the Last Supper, in the discourse that followed their First Communion, He pointed out to His disciples the dangers that awaited them. He told them that the world would persecute them, that they would be maligned and calumniated, and tortured and put to death. And then He spoke this word as a source of never failing consolation: "Have confidence in Me, for I have overcome the world." *Confidite, ego vici mundum! Credite in Me!*

And as to the demon: "Know that I have cast him out. *Princeps hujus mundi ejicietur foras.*" He may rage