



FATHER CARSON EXPLAINS

A dialogue on early and daily Communion for all.



(Continued)



ELL, but, Father," said Mrs. Mary. "Mrs. Manley's boys go to Communion very often since the Decree. They live in Father Healy's parish. And you should see what wild little scamps they are. Why doesn't frequent Communion have more effect on them?"

"To begin with," answered Father Carson, "your remark is based on a false supposition. Holy Communion is not a reward of virtue, to be given only to exemplary souls, nor is it a cure all, nor a violent drug, which changes everything at once. It is a divine Food, a gentle and heavenly Medicine, healing, strengthening, staying up our minds and our hearts with actual graces, and increasing the holiness of our souls. Now, we eat bodily food, even when we are ill, even when we have little appetite, because we need strength and support in our sicknesses, and we take bodily medicine to make us well, even more than to keep us so. And if the food, and the medicine do not have their effect just at once, we say: "Patience! I can't expect to get well all of a sudden!" Now, why shouldn't we think just as sensibly and practically with regard to this heavenly Food and Medicine of our souls?"

"And so—to come back to the Manley boys—even if they weren't very good children, as they are, even if they were wild and intractable and disobedient and lied