

The Wise Man frankly declares that it would have been absolutely impossible for him to remain chaste without a special gift from God. He esteemed it already a great grace "to know that impossibility and the necessity of recurring to God : " As I know that I could not otherwise be continent except God gave it, and this also was a point of wisdom to know whose gift it was." He was, however, a child of remarkable intelligence, and he had received from God a naturally good soul : " And I was a witty child and had received a good soul." But this superior spiritual nature had been united to a corrupt body, the furnace of impure fermentation. This was sufficient reason why, if left to his own strength in the struggle against concupiscence, he should not remain pure. Strong in his humble and loyal declaration, the youthful sage cast himself into the arms of God and lived, supported on Him, strictly united to Him by constant prayer. As long as he remained faithful thereto, he remained chaste : " I went to the Lord and besought Him."

How then, except by uniting them closely to God, can we hope to preserve our children who, alas ! have not all been endowed with a soul so good, a mind so elevated, but who at their birth receive members in which the original wound is aggravated by hereditary defects ? By the bond of prayer, but, more fortunate than the Wise Man, by the living bond of the Flesh and Blood of the Son of God, by sacramental Communion. It should be dealt out to them in proportion to the ardor of the evil desires they have to subdue, the violence of the temptations they have to overcome, the wounds they have to heal, and the natural vices concupiscence tends to corrupt the whole being. Let us oppose to it the antidote " of the Flesh of Jesus who, by attracting to Himself by uniting to Himself, will purify the whole mass." St. Thomas, speaking in the words of St. Augustine, says : " Every Communion well made, is a diminution of concupiscence and an increase of charity."

Lastly, the need of Communion for children and young people is confirmed by the fact, that they are the hope and the reserve corps of the Church. They will remain what we shall make them. If we do not form them into true Christians, instructed in their religion, believing in