
REV. MOTHER TERESA DEASE

"The thoughts of youth are long thoughts," and doubtless, far down the vista of life, the child looked with dreamy, thoughtful eyes into an unknown future. The realization of the hidden meaning of her sister's words must have partly dawned on Frances, when on June 16th, 1805, she received the Holy Eucharist for the first time. Five blissful years spent at St. Mary's Convent, followed by her return home to mourn the death of her father, and less than four years passed in condolence with her devoted mother, completed the girlhood of the Irish foundress.

The story is told of the mysterious, almost miraculous manner, that the way was opened for this heroic young lady to part from her saintly mother, and re-enter the religious home of her childhood, there to renounce all things. Mrs. Ball, who was greatly opposed to her daughter entering a religious community, was accustomed to assist daily at Mass in the Jesuit chapel, Hardwick Street. It happened one morning that owing to some accidental circumstance the Holy Sacrifice was not offered in this church at the usual hour, and she accordingly sought out another in which to satisfy her devotion. Providence guided her steps, for in the church which she entered she fortunately heard a sermon that terrified her not a little on account of her opposition to her child's vocation, and, eventually, powerfully contributed to the fulfilment of her daughter's wishes. The preacher, in forceful language, dwelt on the enormous guilt of those parents who opposed the will of God and endeavoured to turn away their children from that state of life to which they feel themselves called by grace and the