

I.

O Wisdom, who didst proceed out of the mouth of the Most High, reaching from end to end, with might and with sweetness disposing all things! Eternal Wisdom, from whose treasures came forth this adorable invention, the highest, the most profound of Thy Incarnation! Eternal Wisdom, who nowhere sheds such light as in the Adorable Sacrament of our altars, which is the Incarnation continued and communicated at all times to all men, I recognize Thee, and I adore Thee in the Host!

O Adonai, Leader of the house of Israel, who didst appear to Moses in the fire of the flaming bush, and didst give him the Law on Sinai! Adonai, who dost continue under the mysterious cloud of the Sacrament, to conduct the children of the Church through the desert of this life toward the Promised Land of eternity! who dost give to them Thy law of grace and love, or rather, who art Thyself their living Law,—I recognize Thee, and I adore Thee in the Host!

O Root of Jesse, who art a signal to the people, in whose presence kings shall be silent, and to whom the gentiles shall pray! Spotless Flower, who dost embalm the garden of the Church, stainless Standard, under whose shadow the Faithful will combat and take shelter, I recognize Thee, and I adore Thee in the Host!

O Key of David, and sceptre of the house of Israel, who openest and no man shutteth, who shuttest and no man openeth! Mysterious and unique Key, who dost give us access to the Divinity Itself, and to the store-house of all Thy treasures, I recognize Thee, and I adore Thee in the Host!

O King of the gentiles, and their Desired One, the Corner-stone that joinest the two walls, become in the Eucharist the bond of mysterious union which unites all souls, all nations,—the divine Centre which begins here below that great family which the Apostle St. John describes to us in his Apocalypse, and which he could not number, I recognize Thee, and I adore Thee in the Host!