

O Lord, purify me, one of the greatest of sinners; and cleanse my heart, that I may deserve to encompass with the innocent, your holy altar; and to offer you this adorable sacrifice.

Secret Prayers.

I unite my intention, O Lord: with that of your minister, who here offers his supplications in my behalf, and that of your people. I honour the silence of my Saviour in his passion; and through it I humbly beseech him, to grant me a love of silence, and a holy discretion in all my words and conversation.

The Preface.

O Sovereign Lord, what am I going to behold!

All your greatness concealed under the veils of bread and wine!

And whilst your love for sinners, reduce you so low, the Heavens are astonished, the Angels tremble, the Seraphim cover their faces with their wings!

All the powers of the universe bow down, in adoration and praise, and with a thousand voices exalt your infinite Majesty, which fills both heaven and earth!

Christian people! let us unite our voices to theirs, and publish to the whole world this sublime and eternal canticle, Holy, Holy, Holy: is the Powerful God of Armies! The heavens and the earth are filled with his glory. Let us bless Him that cometh in the name of the Lord, who is the Lord Himself!

THE ACTION OF THE SACRIFICE.

Te igitur.

Receive, O Great God, together with the adoration of all creatures, that of your Blessed Son.

He is going to make you an offering

of his life — the principal end of sacrifice. He is a God, who is about to acknowledge your Supreme Being, your absolute dominion.

This act of dependence, worthy of being made to you alone, was prepared before all ages. Nothing was ever to be compared to this august victim, which you expected from all eternity. The moment it appeared, the ancient offerings of the blood of animals became an object of horror in your sight. Behold the just Abel, or rather, the God of Abel, whose blood is about to flow for the sins of mankind.

Memento.

Through the infinite merits of this blood, I pray you, O Lord, for all the graces of which I stand in need.

[Here pause, and represent to God your spiritual wants, and the graces and virtues which you particularly require.]

Having prayed for myself, O Lord, I again present you the Blood of your Son in behalf of your entire Church, and all for whom I am bound to pray; through the relations of kindred, justice, gratitude, and charity. I also offer it for my enemies, whom, for your sake, I most heartily forgive.

Communicantes.

O Glorious Elect of God! August Mary, Queen of Heaven! O ye choirs of Apostles and Martyrs, vouchsafe me the benefit of your intercession. Lend me your hearts, that I may be all on fire at this moment, when the Eternal Son of the living God is going to come down from heaven!

Ille igitur, &c.

Behold him at this moment! Behold this Eternal Word of God! Open