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The Mass at Ars

**S**T Alphonsus says, "A Mass in the act of offering it is as great as the death of Christ on the Cross. Believing this, enlightened and fervent Christians have always shown great eagerness to assist thereat. The faithful of the Apostolic ages deemed it an honor to attend Mass every day, whereas those of the first centuries surrounded with their adorations the holy victim of Calvary offered in the Catacombs asking of Him by His precious Blood the grace to shed theirs without flinching for His sake. In the dark days of the French revolution large numbers willingly braved death to obtain the happiness of being present at the immolation of the Lamb offered in some secret place, some obscure cave or unused barn and the Curé of Ars, then in his boyhood, begged, as an inestimable favor, to be admitted with his elders to those consoling yet dangerous ceremonies.

To-day in cities where faith is preserved in its integrity, daily attendance at Mass is almost general, In Bavaria, for example, in certain districts of Sweden, in parts of Canada, it is customary for the laity to begin their day by assisting at Mass, this practice coming naturally to a soul whom the breath of materialism has not frozen, or whom ignorance has not rendered indifferent to religious observance. After his ordination, the dearest