

"To-day, if you hear the voice of God (and all will hear who care to listen) harden not your hearts." (Psalm xciv. : 8). "Know you not," says St. Paul, "that the goodness of God leadeth you to penance." (Romans ii : 4). Let all the children of the Church, who are of the proper age, approach the sacred tribunal of penance, and receive the blessed Eucharist, within the Paschal time. Let them be more fervent in the performance of their Christian duties, in prayer, in attendance at the public devotions of the Church, in a word, let them be more earnest in the work of their salvation and sanctification.

Let us briefly call your attention to some of those institutions of divine grace and mercy which our loving Saviour has placed at our disposal and for our salvation and sanctification in His holy Church.

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is the most sublime and august institution in our holy religion. It is the great central act of divine worship, by which we acknowledge God's supreme dominion over us and our total dependence on Him. It is a continuation of the sacrifice of Calvary, but offered up under a different mode. In it Jesus Christ is both priest and victim. Through it the precious blood, which speaketh better than Abel, pleads at the divine mercy seat for the remission of human guilt and the alleviation of human sorrows. In it, and through it, our Lord never ceases to make intercession for us. As creatures of God we owe Him four infinite debts which we, of ourselves, could never pay. We owe God infinite praise and adoration because of His infinite perfections, we owe Him infinite expiation because of our innumerable sins, infinite gratitude and thanksgiving because of His immeasurable mercies, and infinite petition, because of our endless necessities. Now the sacrifice of the Mass pays all these infinite debts superabundantly, as often as it is offered daily on the countless altars of Catholicity. It is (1) a sacrifice of worship ; (2) of propitiation for the remission of sin ; (3) of impetration or prayer for the obtaining of benefits, whether spir-