

This example shows how convinced the Saint was of the immense benefits of Holy Viaticum, since he reproached himself for having perhaps been the cause that this religious died without having enjoyed the benefits of that Sacrament.

This example shows us also, how precious the favours granted by Holy Viaticum are in the sight of the Lord, since he granted the prayers of the Saint and allowed a dead person to return to life in order to enjoy those blessings.

St Sacerdos was favoured with a similar miracle on behalf of his deceased father. Having been informed of his death, the Saint went to his father's house to console his mother. There he heard that his father had died without having been comforted by the Holy Eucharist, a pledge of eternal life. This news grieved him exceedingly and throwing himself on his knees near his dead father, he prayed for a long time. Then, animated with a lively faith, he took the hand of the deceased and called him twice by his name. At the trembling voice of his son, the dead came back to life and said : " Having died without being strengthened by the Bread of life, the Lord owing to the merits of my son, has permitted me to rise from the dead, in order to receive that benefit." Those present were frightened at first, but being soon reassured they thanked God. St Sacerdos then, without delay, administered Holy Viaticum to his father. After that, this worthy son fell on his knees and asked his father's blessing. Yielding to this prayer, the fortunate man stretched forth his hand over his son, and having blessed and thanked him, died again.

It is to be observed that it is obligatory to receive Holy Communion at the approach of death, and that obligation is so urgent, that the Church dispenses with the rule of fasting in behalf of those who are dangerously ill ; so that, in order to receive Holy Communion by way of Viaticum, it is not necessary to be fasting. This obligation is founded on the abundant graces which this sacrament is capable of imparting to sick persons and of which they stand so badly in need at that critical hour.