

## THE EUCHARISTIC BANQUET

Our Lord in Holy Communion invites us to banquet in His company, calling us with a silent, loving voice, thrilling us with His own affectionateness. And O! the jubilation which precedes this, namely that of divine forgiveness in a good confession. God is indeed ascending and descending continuously by His Holy Spirit in every sacrament, but especially by His incarnate Godhead in Communion. What can be more glorious than this perfect accessibility of Jesus.

The Real Presence is the reality of all divine union. St. Alphonsus says: "What can God refuse me when He makes Himself mine, heart to heart?" Who can be faint-hearted in the work of salvation when his heart is made one with the mighty heart of Jesus Christ? St. John, in writing to a beloved friend postpones his dearer confidences till he can "speak face to face" One glance of love, one little word of friendship, is worth a thousand pen and ink utterances. What then of being heart to heart with the Son of God — love and love placed in a miraculously close exchange of greetings and of vows. Just as we often say that our feelings are too deep for utterance and our thoughts beyond the power of words to express, so may we also affirm that we can win Christ's love adequately only by the naked knowledge of our soul's loyalty, and, best of all, by the mystical revelations of His own heart's deepest affections for us in Holy Communion.

These sentiments of the Catholic soul are sung beautifully by holy Church in one of the hymns of the divine office for Corpus Christi:

"In birth man's fellow-man was He,  
His meat while sitting at the board;  
He died his ransom to be,  
He reings to be his great reward."