



Holy Communion for Children.

PRIVATE FIRST COMMUNION.

continued.

The following account, given by a mother, is no extraordinary sample of what some children are capable of, even at a very tender age. "My eldest girl was barely three years old when, once, as I was starting for Holy Mass, she said to me: 'Are you going to get that little white thing which is the Good Jesus?' I never forget the impression made upon me one morning, when I was assisting at Mass with my four children. On kneeling down in my place after receiving Holy Communion, I felt a hearty kiss imprinted on my lips. It was my second girl who had thus thought to kiss Our Lord. This same child taught her brothers and sisters while they were still very young to practise 'spiritual Communion'. And when she made her first Communion, the youngest one was deeply impressed, and as long as his sister continued to wear her white dress, would rush towards her and kiss her bosom. He himself now communicates daily. When I learnt that he had been advised to do so by his confessor, I confess to having conceived some fear of routine. But following him each morning of his holidays to the Holy Table, I saw that his earnestness in no way declined. It is for parents to develop an appreciation and desire for Holy Communion in their children: for they are capable of both while still very young. From their earliest years they like going to the church and to watch the Mass. They try by questionings to unravel the great mystery, enquire why the server rings a bell, and the people bow down their heads. That is the moment for telling them the marvellous story of the Last Supper, and of how Our Lord, when about to die for His own, gave Himself to them under the ap-