

Saturday with all the ceremonials which our Holy Church prescribes.

When the Choir, the Clergy, and Bishop were advancing in procession from the Sanctuary to the Baptisterium, the following Tract was sung from the Psalms.

Sicut Desiderat. As the hart panteth after the fountains of water; so my soul panteth after thee O God. V. My soul hath thirsted after the living God: when shall I come and appear before the face of God? V. My tears have been my bread day and night, while they say to me every day: Where is now thy God?

The Lord be with you. R. And with thy spirit.

Let us pray. Concede.

GRANT, we beseech thee, O Almighty God, that we, who celebrate the gift of the Holy Ghost, may, by the inspiration of heaven, earnestly thirst after the fountain of life. Through. R. Amen.

Having entered the font he said—

Let us pray. Omnipotens.

O ALMIGHTY and eternal God, be present at these mysteries, be present at these sacraments of thy great goodness: and send forth the spirit of thy adoption to regenerate the new people whom the font of baptism bringeth forth: that what is to be done by the ministry of us thy servants, may be accomplished by the effect of thy power. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, thy Son, who with Thee in the unity of the same Holy Ghost liveth and reigneth one God!

Then raising his voice he chaunted in the beautiful tone of the preface

For ever and ever R. Amen.

V. The Lord be with you. R. And with thy spirit. V. Raise up your hearts on high. R. We have them raised up to the Lord. V. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. R. It is meet and just.

It is truly meet and just, right and available to salvation, to give thee thanks always, and in all places, O holy Lord, almighty Father, and eternal God: who, by thy invisible power, dost wonderfully produce the effects of thy sacraments; and, though we are unworthy

to administer such great mysteries, yet, as thou dost not abandon the gifts of thy grace, so thou inclinest the ears of thy goodness even to our prayers. O God, whose spirit in the very beginning of the world moved upon the waters; that even then the nature of water might receive the virtue of sanctification: O God, who by water didst wash away the crimes of a guilty world, and by the overflowing of the deluge didst give us a figure of regeneration; that our and the same element might, in a mystery, be the end of vice, and the origin of virtue; look down, O Lord, on thy Church, and multiply in her thy regenerations, who by the streams of thy abundant grace, fillest thy city with joy, and openest the fountains of baptism all over the world for the renewal of the Gentiles; that by the command of thy majesty it may receive the grace of thy Son from the Holy Ghost.

Here the Bishop divided the Water in the form of a Cross.

Who by a secret mixture of his divine virtue may render this water fruitful for the regeneration of men; to the end that those, who are to be sanctified in the immaculate womb of this divine font, and are to be born again new creatures, may come forth a heavenly offspring; and that all, however distinguished by age in time, or sex in body, may be brought forth in the same infancy by grace, their spiritual mother. Therefore may all unclean spirits, by thy command, O Lord, depart from hence: may all the malice of diabolical wiles be entirely banished; may no power of the enemy prevail here; let him not fly about to lay his snares; let him not creep in by his secret artifices: let him not corrupt with his infection.

Here the Bishop touched the water with the palm of his hand.

May this holy and innocent creature be free from all assaults of the enemy, and purified by the destruction of her malice. May it become a living fountain, a regenerating water, a purifying stream; that all those that are to be washed in this saving bath, may obtain, by the efficacy of the Holy Ghost, the grace of a perfect purification.

Here he made the sign of the Cross three times over the Font, chaunting

Wherefore I bless thee, O creature of water, by the living $\times$ God, by the true $\times$ God, by the holy $\times$ God; by that God, who in the beginning separated thee by his word from the dry land, and whose spirit moved upon thee.