

which is ours also, the Church, the paternal homestead of all Christians, wherein no one feels like an orphan or an alien. Oh ! think often in your daily labours of this good Father, always present in your midst, protecting you, watching over you, guarding you with that ineffable goodness which is His principal attribute.

A father works unceasingly to provide food for his children. Jesus nourishes us with the " Bread of Life " which he died to obtain for us : this bread is Himself, His sacred Body and adorable Blood. A Father who gives Himself as food to his children ! In what other family have we ever witnessed such devotedness ? The eve of His death, He gathered together His small family, the beginning of the immense one of to-day, distributed to each the " Bread of Life " promising them that until the end, they, as well as their descendants, should always have this life giving nourishment at their disposal.

A father should, from time to time, hold family festivals. They tend to cement the bonds of affection, they are eagerly looked forward to and warmly welcomed especially by the children who begin to prepare for their celebration long beforehand.

Jesus has His family feasts also : those of the Father, Our Creator ; of the Blessed Virgin, our Mother ; of the Saints, our brothers which celebrations are vivified through Jesus present and living in the Eucharist amidst His assembled family. Observe them joyously, affectionately depose at the feet of Jesus your garlands and flowers ; offer Him your greetings and congratulations. Let them spring spontaneously from the bottom of your heart, do not cull them from books or strangers. During the day, perform some little act of virtue to please Him, make some little sacrifice for the same intention.

Jesus is, indeed, a benign Father, who, in His infinite wisdom foresaw that, as long as the Christian family lasted, He must be its life, its centre, its mainstay, its joy, its happiness ; consequently, He made Himself our common Father and daily life-giving nourishment, so that we, His children, might be fraternally united as members of one family. For which reason also the Apostles called the first Christians brothers.

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