



Holy Communion as a Means of Helping the Souls in Purgatory



DURING their earthly pilgrimage, our parents and friends, who have preceded us in eternity, had like us, and perhaps often with us, partaken of this divine banquet. The blessed bread which Jesus in His immense love, had given to them, as to us, was for them a pledge of life and immortality. This heavenly viaticum strengthened them in their journey from time to eternity, assuring them of victory in the last combat, and planting in their bodies the germ of immortality, divine flower whose roots are in the glorified body of the risen Lord ; and which will open in glorious blossom in each of the elect, on the last day.

This " Bread of Life, " which was the delight of many of these holy souls, is now beyond their ardent desires, their holy eagerness. This celestial Manna does not fall on the world of fire, they inhabit ; the eternal Communion is the only one they can hope for, and, oh ! with what holy impatience they long and wait for it. The most ardent burning desires of the saints, for whom the Eucharist was the passion of their lives, can give us but an imperfect idea of the vivacity of the ardour with which those poor exiles, sigh after the moment when they will be forever united to this Eucharistic God, who so often, during their earthly life showed them His sweetness and inundated their soul with His chaste delights.

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