

## Particular Practice for the Month of December.

Our duties towards the Blessed Eucharist.

Sixth Duty : To Study It.



WHY are we in this world ? Our Catechism tells us in order to know God, to love and serve Him and thereby gain eternal life. First of all, we must know God, because only knowledge will make love spring up in our hearts. And to attain this knowledge we must study ; otherwise it would be like trying to kindle a light without the help of another light ; in like manner the light of our intellect must be ignited at the flame of study. We must study God. Vast ambition ! God dwells in an inaccessible light. He veils Himself from our mortal eyes, we can scarcely lift them to Him because of the dazzling splendour of His surroundings.

Creation shows us the magnificent variety of His attributes ; nevertheless, we do not see Him. He is almost as hidden under nature's veil as in the sanctuary of His inaccessible essence, almost as incomprehensible in His exterior operations as in His exterior perfections. In the Sacred Scriptures, His authentic word, do we see Him more clearly ? Those pages were written in order to be a book more easily read than that of nature ; in order to enlighten our soul in a more clear and sympathetic manner.

Even so we do not understand them : they seem to us like the ancient terrestrial paradise in whose fragrant avenues the Lord walked at eventide ; we hear Him, we realize His presence, nevertheless, we do not know Him.

Yes, God's good pleasure and wish is to hide Himself from our corporal eyes ; nevertheless, we should know Him. Moreover, He desires to be known. " He invites us to come and visit Him, to lift the veil that hides Him from our eyes, to gaze into the sanctuary where His beauty, shines : while at the same time He draws us by irresistible charms and encourages us by letting His blessed rays of light penetrate us " (Faber.)

O my God, how shall we learn to know Thee ?