

The efficacy of Holy Mass.

The Holy Mass is the greatest act of propitiation that fallen man can offer his offended but loving and merciful Father in Heaven. No one can ever tell what the Mass here on earth has meant for the world, how much of mercy it has drawn from God, how many afflictions of earthquake and tempest and flood it has averted, yea how many of these same afflictions it has guided so as to be instruments of invisible but tenderest mercy.

Above all the Mass has won grace for struggling souls. It has won grace even for souls that have forfeited all claims on assistance, that have outraged mercy and by their persistence in sin have drawn the wrath of God and His sentence of damnation on themselves. But the sweet intercession of Christ, the Mediator, in the Mass has drawn down pardon, mercy and grace on them.

Therefore should we assist at Mass with contrite hearts, for in the Mass Christ is interceding for us with His heavenly Father. With Him we should join in praise and propitiation. The greater the guilt of sin we have incurred, the greater our need to assist at Mass as often as we can. For Christ is our own brother according to the flesh. It is our very nature which in Him is offering consummate praise to our God. And so we should at this time in a special way unite our homage to His. We should join in the great act itself and offer Christ to His Father. He is our offering, the supreme tribute which our nature can make. There with the Divine Victim we should offer ourselves our minds and our wills, and all that we are. Ask our Lord to make our homage more perfect, to purge our gift of the stains of selfishness and worldly love. Ask Him to receive our hearts and offer them to His Father, and their littleness and poorness will be glorified by the brightness of the dear Hands that hold them up.

We must assist at Mass with a vivid faith in the presence of God. We must look into the face of our judge at the elevation and, forgetting the sounds of the world's