

But in so doing, let them eschew all laboured and abstruse disquisitions, and shun likewise the fruitless efforts of such who indiscreetly strive to fathom the mysteries of God.

“ For, more profitable far would it be to recall and dilate at length upon the many and lavish blessings which have flowed and still continue to flow from this divine source into our souls, and thus wholly dispel the shades of error and ignorance which bring discredit upon the children of light. . . If we insist so urgently on this point it is not only because there is question of a mystery inseparably connected with our eternal welfare, and consequently which we must steadfastly believe, but, moreover, because the more clearly and perfectly all true excellence is known the more ardently also is it cherished.”

This lack of practical devotion to the Holy Ghost among many of the faithful did not escape the keen observation of the great English Cardinal; and while expressing his surprise at the seeming absence of this devotion, Cardinal Manning gives at least one of the reasons which may account for it\*: “ It has always seemed to me both strange and wonderful that whereas we worship the ever-blessed Trinity — the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost — in consubstantial unity; and whereas we worship the Person of the Father with a special and daily adoration every time we say the Lord’s Prayer, and whereas we worship the Person of the Son by concluding all our prayers through His Name, and by adoring Him in the ever-blessed Sacrament; nevertheless, we rarely worship and adore with a distinct and special adoration the Person of God the Holy Ghost. Why is this? I believe it to be for this reason. The conception of the fatherhood of God and of our sonship to Him is a conception altogether natural to our hearts. We learn it in our home from our earliest consciousness in the relation we bear to our earthly father. The Incarnation of the Son of God brings Him also within the sphere and range of our intelli-

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\* *Internal Mission of the Holy Ghost*, N. Y., third edit. p. 348.