

says. "the just live by Faith." So did Simeon live and he watched and waited for long years without complaining, happy to obtain by his patience the grace of embracing Jesus before dying, the grace of pressing to his heart "the Desired of Nations," "the Consolation of Israel." Jesus did not allow Simeon to leave this world before he had the happiness of bearing Him, the Saviour, in his arms. He was at last rewarded, he who had prepared himself for such a number of years to receive his God, the God who loves to give Himself to souls who prepare themselves long beforehand for this supreme reception. His Habitual frequentation of His Temple, frequent participation in His Sacraments, especially in His Sacrament, by excellence, The Divine Eucharist, are the principal means by which we can prepare ourselves to receive Jesus and obtain the grace of not dying without receiving Him a last time in Viaticum.

Oh! if we understood the importance of this grace, how we should endeavor to render ourselves worthy of it, worthy to hear from the lips of Jesus the blessed assurance the Holy Ghost gave to Simeon, that, "the hour of his departure should not sound until he had seen his Saviour." To receive Holy Communion all our life long, in order to obtain the grace to communicate in Viaticum, Happy would not be purchasing this grace too highly. Whoever has a heart let him understand! And to understand let us consider Simeon.

The holy old man went to the Temple; and it chanced that on the same day and at that very hour the Mother and Father of Jesus brought the child to the Temple, according to the custom of the law (Luke, 11, 2). A happy meeting! arranged not indeed by chance but by the Holy Ghost. Simeon sought Jesus, but not so eagerly as Jesus sought him; Simeon desired to receive Jesus that day but not so intensely as Jesus desired to give Himself to him. Let us picture to ourselves the first look of the holy old man on the sweet little child lying so quietly, so confidently in his arms! Let us imagine, if we can, the ecstasy of that first mutual transport!

"He took the child in his arms." Ah! it does not satisfy Simeon, the bliss of gazing on Jesus. No, he desires more, and though Mary clasps her babe close to her, Simeon is unable to leave her side. He will c