

The Eucharist must then repeat to all men in every age the sweet story of old that Jesus has suffered and died for them. How does it accomplish that mission? By renewing daily the death of Jesus, at holy Mass, when the priest, by virtue of the powerful words of the consecration, calls from the heights of heaven, the living and triumphant Christ, and encloses Him motionless and mute in the bonds of the Eucharistic species. Is He not then in a state of death, the divine Saviour? He is there beneath the Eucharistic veils, in the perfect possession of His life as Man-God; faith teaches indeed that since His resurrection, Christ cannot die. But what is it then to possess life and not to be able to manifest it by any exterior act nor show it by any perceptible proof! It is to be in a state of death, in the condition of a corpse. Such is Jesus in the Sacrament; and such He appears and shows Himself. It is only necessary to believe and see in order to understand it: to believe that beneath the veils of the Sacrament resides the Son of God made man; and to see that nothing is evident of what we call life. Neither liberty of motion to go from one place to another or to avoid His enemies; nor speech to converse with his friends nor to cry for help when profane hands would desecrate His sanctuary; nor power to perform any exterior action; not even to assume that form, that human appearance through which the human person can be distinguished: nothing. Just as during His Passion, He was delivered up to those who constrained Him, so now, chained in powerlessness, nailed, as it were to the altar, unrecognizable, to such extent that His friends themselves must say like the prophet? "I have seen Him, I have seen the consecrated Host, and nothing, nothing could show me how to distinguish it from another, and to recognize Jesus in His obscurity." Could the Saviour perpetuate the memory of His Passion and His death on Calvary any better than through that state of death?

Adore therefore in the Blessed Sacrament, the divine Sufferer, the gentle Victim of Crucifixion; never let the Holy Host appear to you without remembering Jesus crowned with thorns, nailed to the cross and dying for our love.