

And if the flower of innocence must one day fade in the child's soul let it be as late as possible: and in order to put off that evil day, do you, my brother priests, give the Eucharist to little children without fear. Give it to them often, so that the habit of Communion may prove their salvation after the bitterness of their fall, and their best safeguard against a relapse. Just as any confessor whatever is authorised in the performance of his office to advise a child to receive Communion daily, after hearing and questioning him, so, too, any priest may give Communion to children who present themselves in any church, or any oratory be it public or private without troubling to enquire whether those children have been publicly admitted by their parish priests to First Communion.

Were this not lawful, the confessor's decision that a child may and ought to communicate would be rendered nugatory: his action might be frustrated through the opposition of some pastor who was over zealous for the maintenance of customs, or of old abuses, and who might be inclined to forbid children to communicate in his church, merely because they had not passed through the mould of a solemn celebration of First Communion.

It is important to preserve the innocence of all children, but it is specially important in the case of those who are destined later to fill our seminaries and to enter the priesthood, and become the future dispensers of the Bread of Angels. It is necessary to saturate their young souls in the Blood of Christ and fill them with solid virtues.

"For the replenishing of our seminaries," writes Père Lintelo, "parish priests should induce the youngest children, who are capable, to communicate every day, or nearly so. Through this means there will be a goodly number of vocations to the priesthood, and these more noted for their solidity than many that we have at present, the unsteadiness and painful mediocrity of which may be traced to a single cause, namely, the lack of solid virtue having a blameless childhood for its foundation."

*to be continued.*