

## THE HOLY EUCHARIST

*Mgr. Vaughan.*

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The higher we ascend in the scale of creation the more do wonders grow, both in number and in intensity. How unspeakably more wondrous is the vegetable than the mineral kingdom. It would be easy to point out a host of marvels in every flower and shrub, and blossom and bud; but to economise space, I will pass by the vegetable kingdom altogether, and ask the reader's kind attention for a while, whilst I strive to point out the mysteries present in one of the commonest operations of the animal world. An operation which the reader has, no doubt, witnessed time after time, and yet one in which he perhaps never saw anything special to wonder at. Familiarity with a process has so strong a tendency, indeed, to destroy our power of appreciating its marvellousness, that I think it will be of considerable assistance to us if the subject be introduced by a somewhat extravagant supposition.

Suppose, then, that some unknown person were to come to us from another world, and producing a small vessel should say: "Here is a small oval box or receptacle made out of lime, and filled with a thickish viscid of glutinous substance. Keep it carefully for a few weeks in a warm and even temperature, and I undertake to say that, without any further attention on your part, it will gradually transform itself into a superb gold chronometer, with dial, hands, main spring, and hair-spring, lever escapement, and everything complete. Every wheel will be in its place and in ceaseless motion. Each hinge, rivet screw and other accessory part will be carefully formed and placed in position. The whole will constitute a watch, ticking merrily all the day, and registering the time at each succeeding moment."

Such a supposition is enough to make one smile. One instinctively exclaims, "What nonsense! What a ludicrous