

is I, — I, thy Saviour, I, thy Light and Salvation. Of whom shalt thou be afraid? If enemies trouble thee, they themselves shall be weakened and shall fall; if armies should encamp around thee, if battle be drawn up against thee, fear not, I am with thee — fear not, it is I."

"Fear not," He says to the just soul; "it is I — I Who try thee sometimes, it is true, but only to increase thy merit; I, Who chastise thee often, but to preserve thee from evil, and because I love thee and desire thy love and therefore draw thee close to My Heart; I, Who in heaven will by thy reward, exceeding great."

The Blessed Eucharist is our hope and our confidence. The voice of Jesus comes from the tabernacle: "It is I; fear not." Fear nothing; for behold the humble veils that conceal Me. Here I am more lowly than in the crib of Bethlehem; and the shepherds did not fear Me. Here I am more docile and meek than in the house of Nazareth; and Mary and Joseph did not fear Me. Here I am more destitute than during My mortal life; I had not then where to repose My head; and now I only ask to rest in your tabernacle and in your heart. Fear nothing; for in this Sacrament I have concealed My power, yet I bring with Me My grace and benediction. "Ask and you shall receive; seek and you shall find; knock and it shall be opened unto you." I listen with delight, O my God, to these consoling words and I do not hesitate to yield to this appeal for confidence. Yes; when I approach Thy tabernacle and hear Thee say to me: "It is I; fear not, I praise and adore Thee; I humble myself profoundly; I love and thank Thee but I do not fear. I gaze calmly on the enemies of my soul; I despise them and fear them no longer; I resign myself to the sufferings of life, the storms of the world, the tribulations of the flesh, I resign myself and I fear not. I find that this sweet confidence renders it easy to avoid sin and to practise virtue; and I say often to myself that as the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, so its perfection and consummation is a blind confidence in the God of the Eucharist.

O Jesus! strengthen my hope; fortify my confidence. O my soul, how canst thou fear? O fair hope, last refuge