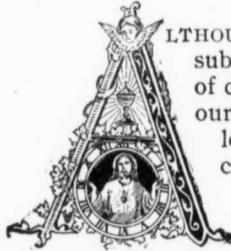


The Gospel of the Eucharist

Hidden Life—The Visitation.

(Continued.)



ALTHOUGH this and the following months subjects do not coincide with the cycle of church Feasts, still we shall continue our Eucharistic studies in their chronological order ; our aim being less to call attention to any particular feast than to show their relation in general to the Eucharist.

The life of Jesus in Mary constitutes the second state of His earthly existence ; it was He who lived, He who acted in His docile mother ; this life so hidden and so admirable is the favorite devotion of pure hearts and of interior souls.

The form of unleavened bread that contains our Lord, the ciborium of gold that encloses Him the white veil that covers Him, all in this sacrament recalls the hidden life of the Son of God and bears mysterious to his existence in His Virgin Mother's womb. Nevertheless, I dare not broach that subject in itself, but only in one of its principle points, its most striking incidents : The Visitation.

This mystery is so full of meaning and so beautiful in itself that I can easily understand why St. Francis of Sales, whose piety and erudition sweetened and enlightened the Church bestowed it on the order he founded.

Everything in and about this mystery is worthy of note ; the Blessed Virgin's journey, her sentiments and her hymn of thanksgiving ; the happiness of St. Elizabeth, the sanctification of the precursor, the cure of Zacharias. But one thing too little dwelt upon, is that, all this comes from Jesus who is as yet hidden from every eye : it is Jesus who leads His blessed Mother across the mountains of Hebron ; Jesus who enlightens St. Elizabeth and causes the child she bears in her womb to leap for joy ; Jesus