

NINTH SERIES OF NOTES.

Distribution of Christ's Royal Power (or Authority) in the Church.

[364] In this group of Notes we will consider, first, the two-fold title under which the Church governing holds Authority—and second, the visible fountain-head and channels of the same.

First Section:

By the two-fold title of the Positive Divine and of the Natural Law—Christ imparted His Authority to His Apostles and Their Successors, Who Constitute the Church governing.

Definition :

"Jurisdiction is the moral power or right of exercising a variety of functions towards others, of pronouncing judgment and enforcing obedience" (Ryder's Cath. Controv., 9th ed., p. 38). The power of Order means the power of the Church over the *Real* body of our Blessed Saviour—*i.e.*, the power to sanctify men by means of the religious rites instituted by our Lord in order to communicate to mankind the virtue of His atoning Sacrifice and the substance of His Deific body and blood. The royal Sovereignty of the Church, or the power of Jurisdiction, signifies the power over the *Mystical* body of Jesus Christ—*i.e.*, the right to rule and govern the members and subjects of his Church.

Subject-matter of Jurisdiction :

The Jurisdiction of the Church extends over the baptised exclusively—the unbaptized, being no part of the Body, are not ruled by the laws of the Body. "For, what have I to do to judge them that are without * * * For them that are without God will judge:" 1 Cor. 5' 12, 13.

At the same time, an important truth should not be overlooked or glossed over, in connection with this subject, to-wit :

Valid baptism being the God-appointed door of entrance to His one and only Church, it follows that its every recipient become *ipso facto* a child of the one true Church of God, and remains such until he incurs excommunication, or lapses into