

Why, then, do you hesitate? Give yourself to Him. Oh! christian parents, give your children to Jesus, that He may guide them through the dangers of life and bring them safely to you again where you await them in the eternal home; and say to Him with the elder Tobias: "Guide, protect and conduct my son in all things, O divine Guide, O Raphael! and I hear the echo of His answer: "*Ego sanum ducam et sanum tibi reducam filium tuum.*" I will conduct him safely and will bring him safely back to thee." It is the promise that Jesus makes to His Father when souls fresh from the graces of baptism are confided to His care that He may guide them to Heaven. "I will keep them, I will defend them even at the cost of my life. Not one of those whom My Father hath given Me, not one of those who remain in my keeping shall perish, and no one shall snatch them out of My Hand." *Et nemo tollet de manu mea.* "Only he shall perish who is the son of perdition, who cares not to be saved, and refuses My guidance."

The christian life begins under the guidance and protection of Jesus. The soul and Jesus walk side by side. O loving companionship! O powerful guardianship! O faithful pledge of strength and light in all the perils of the way! O certain and sure promise of the happy end to the journey of Life! It is impossible here to point out in detail how faithful Jesus is to each soul of those confided to His cares. It would be the life history of every soul that has reached the blissful haven of eternity. Taking up the story of the Bible once more, we must be content with bringing out the general characteristics of His guidance. We will find them foreshadowed in two or three of the principal events of the journey of Tobias, where the archangel appears most prominently as the protector of the young man, and gives him aid in a manner most tender, wise and direct. He was for Tobias, according to the promise of his name, a joy, a delight, a helper, a treasure and a consolation.

Jesus, our Fellow Traveller, our Viaticum, the Strength and Food of our journey, will a thousand times more truly fulfil all of these offices, in the Blessed Sacrament, and deserve all these titles.