

leaving my room, I found the outer door locked and bolted as usual. When I reached the sacristy, the sexton told me of the sudden death of Mr. B..., which had taken place the same hour that he had appeared to me.

I could now no longer oppose the last wish of the deceased, and set to work with redoubled care, to prepare little Joseph for the great day of his first Communion. If his natural father had so ardent a desire to obtain for his son the sacramental union with his Lord, that he was permitted by God to make it known to me in so extraordinary a manner, it should not be wanting on my part, as his spiritual father, to have this grace imparted to him.

"I found the child's mind more than ever, ready to grasp the instructions. He seemed to have a keener perception since his father's death, and with joyful longing he awaited the great event. Little Joseph received his Lord and God with sentiments of holiest joy, and seemed to realize his great happiness more than the other children. The afternoon of the same day he was seized with a violent headache and obliged to go to bed. He never rose again. That same night he exchanged earth for heaven, and after the morning Angelus, the bell again tolled, the first time since the death of his father.

"In what manner the father's mysterious appearance to me took place, I am unable to explain. I believe, however, that the good man being so solicitous for his child's soul, at the time when he was about to breathe his last, was made aware of his son's early departure. I believe that at this moment he besought God with all the strength of his paternal love, to vouchsafe to his child the great grace of sacramental union with his Lord before he should die. How could our Divine Saviour refuse such a petition? —Already surrounded by the shadows of death, his spirit realized the fact that in this one grace of Holy Communion, all other graces would be contained for his child."

What a blessing would it not be for the faithful if all would realize the greatness of Holy Communion.