

Meanwhile the devil was preparing against us the most horrible assault we have had to sustain, one which hell alone could inspire. The idea of this new sort of attack was due to Siemasko, who imagined it during a banquet. We were called in from our work earlier than usual, and, at a given moment, our prison was invaded by a set of drunken ferocious wretches, sent to outrage us most infamously. Oh ! who could ever tell the horrors of that terrible hour ? The scene was one of hell ! We were left bruised and bitten, and literally bathing in our blood. I received three terrible bites on the arm, and a deep gash in my side. My head was so awfully bruised, that I afterwards lost a piece of the skull-bone, the space of which is now covered over by a were lay of skin. Two Sisters, Justina Tur and Liberata Kormin, were crushed to death ; eight had their eyes plucked out and their face mutilated ; all were horribly mangled. Ah ! what a cruel night we passed, without being able to assist each other ! We washed our wounds with our tears, and soothed our pains by the thought of the sufferings of Jesus-Christ.

About two months after this scene (1843) we received the visit of Father Kotoski, a Franciscan monk, who lived nearly opposite our prison, in the former convent of the Jesuits, now occupied as a military school to which he was chaplain. At the sight of a catholic priest we shed tears of joy, in hopes of being able to go to confession and receive holy communion. Oh ! how happy we were to receive this unexpected visit ! Yet, it seemed strange to us that Father Kotoski, whilst sympathizing with us over our sufferings, had not a word to console us. He merely gave us a little money, with some bread and meat. He promised to return shortly again, and to visit us frequently, and so he did soon return. Our intention, this time, was to ask him to hear our confession ; but he spoke first and said : " Here is some more money and bread ; but it is especially about your souls that I wish to occupy myself to-day. " Then, offering us two books, he continued : " I deplore your misery, but still more your ignorance, you persist in your obstinacy without knowing for what. Listen to me. Is the Eucharist not the same under one,