

marshalled to their places of honour, are indeed about to receive the King of kings into the pure new chalice of their heart.

The girls veiled in white and crowned with roses raise our earth-bound thoughts to that band of virgins who, amid heavenly glories, follow in the footsteps of the Lamb Divine, singing a song of mystery; and those innocent and tense faces of the boys are no unfit emblem of the cherubim and ardent seraphim who surround unseen the Tabernacle in which their Sovereign Lord abides. Those childish souls are indeed beautiful, and they are soon to be the delight of Him "who feedeth among the lilies". And now the priest turns to address them. He speaks to them of Jesus, the Jesus whom they have so eagerly desired, Who bids them come to Him and is about to nourish them with His own Body and Blood. The great moment has arrived, the moment beyond description for its sweetness, when at length the divine Host is laid upon the tongues of the young communicants!

How pure and simple is the adoration paid by those guileless hearts! Christian parents may well shed tears of joy, as thank God they often do, at such a moment. For the children whom they hold so dear, whom they have brought up with so much care and anxiety, then receive "the pledge of eternal life".

Then comes the family gathering, and the love-feast at home. In the afternoon, perhaps, all gather again in the church for some devotions and Benediction of the Most Holy Sacrament, renewal of baptismal vows, and the consecration of the heroes and heroines of the day to the Mother of God.

O, happy children, blessed in spending the years of childhood under the Eucharistic reign of Pius the Tenth, promise freely to be true to Jesus Christ; pledge yourselves never to turn your backs on Him who has given you life, and has also given His life for you. The day of trial will come. Satan will raise the storm of passion in your souls; the fires of concupiscence will kindle in your hearts; pride and hatred, unchastity with its deadly allurements, the immoderate thirst for riches, will excite in you mad and fatal desires.