

the Faithful. Those, then, who really wish to love Jesus—and do we not all at least entertain that wish?—should bestow especial tenderness on the men He loves best. Father Faber puts this thought in his own inimitable words: "Every creature has a worth of its own, with which its Creator has mercifully enriched it. Yet it is more to us to know what his Creator thinks of him than to know what he is worth himself; and it is not so much his own worth, as God's love, which is the measure of the divine appreciation of him. Nevertheless, God's esteem of creatures becomes the creature's real worth, because it raises him to his own height." * And can anything higher be conceived than God's appreciation of the priests He has chosen to stand in His stead?

That they who thus stand have, without any metaphor but most literally, been chosen by Him is a point that needs little or no development for a Catholic. The Sovereign Pontiff, who is Christ's Vicar on earth, appoints the Bishop of each diocese on the surface of the globe, and the Bishop appoints the parochial clergy. There are but two steps between the parish or mission priest and Our Lord Himself; and those two steps are guaranteed by His permanent governance of His Church. It matters not if the Bishop be the most worthy of his high office or the priest the ablest and best that could be found; the only question is: Is the priest approved and appointed by his Bishop, and is the Bishop recognized by the Successor of St. Peter? All other considerations are of no weight in comparison to this one. To be the duly accredited representative of Christ is the essential point. Apart from the paramount fact that this is Christ's way of salvation as taught in the New Testament, this method of establishing connection with Him is the only reasonable one, the only one that can be verified by a rational animal, that is, a being whose knowledge begins in the senses. All other methods, such as are in vogue outside

* Bethlehem, p. 251 (first Baltimore edition);