

religion quite well enough, as I've seen for myself. They don't require to know *everything*, nor need their knowledge be as detailed as it would be, say, at twelve years old. So, Mrs. Cologan, I want them to make their First Communion, the three of them, on the Feast of the Sacred Heart. As it happens in this diocese, it falls within the time prescribed for the Pascal duty. I've some others under instruction just now, and I want to make up a good number—some will be going at Corpus Christi also."

Mrs. Cologan gasped. The idea took her entirely by surprise. She had no words to answer with, the plan had so confused her.

"There's another thing I'd like to say," resumed Father Burke, after a pause, "that is, the Sacred Heart hasn't forgotten grown-up people either. He wants every one to come to Him—innocent children, hard-working men, anxious, busy wives and mothers like yourself. Young people and old, are welcome, He is eager for all.

"I know you go to Holy Communion with Thomas every Sunday: I know you go on First Fridays and Feasts also. But that's not enough, my dear child. If you want our Lord's daily blessing, His hourly help, companionship and counsel, come and receive Him *every day*. Every day, child, with your little ones, when they've once made their First Communion. *Christ doesn't ask more of a child than a child has to give Him*, remember. And He does so want their pure souls, He'll do so much for them.

"It's the Bond of unity, therefore, the Sacrament of a Christian family. It is the bread of the strong, and the Sacred Heart will help you and strengthen you so much, Mary. He will teach you and show you how to keep your household for Him. And how grateful He will be to you! Only come yourself, and Thomas too, if possible, and bring your children to Him—He will do all the rest. And this is not my word, it's the word of the Vicar of Christ."

When Mrs. Cologan at last found her tongue, it was only to voice her astonishment, her fear that it couldn't