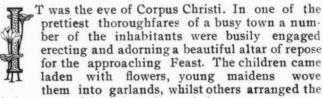
intercessions may be more efficacious when we are more united with Our Lord; for it is in His name that we obtain every perfect gift from our Heavenly Father. But as, in order to benefit fully by a divine ordinance, it is especially requisite to enter into the views of Him who institutes it, we must understand that the Eucharist was created to feed our souls. Before pouring ourselves out in intercession and the prayer of petition, charity will inspire us to think first of God and of ourselves—of God more than of ourselves. We shall place ourselves before God in the attitude and the dispositions which are befitting, and which will then secure the efficacy of our intercession and of our petitions.

Certain utilitarian tendencies of our times are a serious danger for the sanctification of souls, even in the religious state. All the energy of their mind is turned to the interests of their neighbor; and this ill-regulated charity causes them to neglect their own sanctification, or at least to be turned aside from that capital work, which, after all, is the will of God in their regard. We can not invert this essential order without loss. Now our duties to God precede our duties to our neighbor. God has a right to our service, and a right to our perfect sanctification, since He has given us all the means to secure it; His will is that we should use these same means for the end He proposes to Himself.





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