



## Thoughts for the Month of May

*(See frontispiece)*



HE Church surrounds the Blessed Sacrament with an atmosphere of purity. The host which she permits to be carried to the altar must be absolutely spotless; not only to the adorable body of our Lord, but to the accidents as well. she applies, in the solemn reverent language of the liturgy, the words that have been used from ancient times, "the pure host, the holy host, the immaculate host." How she lingers and insists on the stainless character of her offering and her Victim! The corporal on which Christ rests must be free from every blemish, and the paten, at least where it touches the sacred species, must be of polished gold. Innocent children are chosen to strew the flower petals before their Eucharistic God, only blameless priests may put the key into the tabernacle, and even they, before and during the Mass, must purify their fingers to make them wholly free from every tiny speck of dust, and to symbolize to all those present how free from sin should be all participants in this holy act of worship.

In doing this the Church is only following the example of God Himself. In banishing from everything that comes in contact with Christ's Sacred Body all uncleanness, she has only done what God once did when He prepared the first resting-place of His Incarnate Son. It was the fairest, purest, holiest of all the daughters of Adam that the Father chose as the Mother of His Son. It was in view of her divine maternity that Mary was excluded from the general law, that because the father of mankind had fallen, all his children should be born