

while the sweetest and deepest of all parables? The Blessed Sacrament is avowedly and intentionally a picture of His Suffering Life. It recalls His Passion. It is a state of mystical death. It is being continually visited with outrage, both intellectual and moral; and the sacrifice in which it is both consecrated and consumed is a renewal of the very Sacrifice of Calvary itself. As He was adorned in His Risen Life with the gifts of His glorified Body, so is He in the Blessed Sacrament; and as the occupations of His Risen Life were teaching and instructing His apostles in the things pertaining to the Church, so is He in the Blessed Sacrament eminently the fountain of all the ecclesiastical sciences, while the worship of Him in it is the true source of the ecclesiastical spirit, which is the health and vigour of the Church; and as the lesson on which He dwelt during His risen life as nearest and dearest to His Sacred Heart, was the thrice-repeated commission to Peter by the shore of His favorite inland sea, "Feed My sheep, Feed My lambs", so also is this His own very work in the Blessed Sacrament. He is there that He may become our food. It is the stupendous way whereby God made Man renders Himself capable of being eaten by His creatures.

His Life of Glory is the very life which He is living now. He has ascended. The Holy Ghost has come; and Jesus Himself has returned, according to His promise, that He might not leave us orphans. As He is in heaven at the moments of the consecration, so is He in the adorable Host only veiled, and without dimensions. As He is in the exaltation of His Ascension, so is He in the abasement of the Blessed Sacrament. His Life above is one and the same Life as that which He leads below. The Ascension, as the Angelic Doctor teaches us, brought no change over Him. It only elevated His Human Nature to a more befitting place. It is rest and joy and love to think that as He left the earth on sunny Olivet that Thursday afternoon, so heaven keeps Him as earth saw Him last, familiar and unchanged; and that when He comes in His glory to judge the world, He shall come as He went, "in like manner", as the angels told the men of Galilee, so that all shall know that it is He, and His life. All weep for joy.

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