

follow Him. What matters it that Jesus is hidden beneath eucharistic veils? We know that He is there; we see Him with eyes of faith. Reflect, moreover, that when Jesus was preaching in Judea it would not have been easy for you to have gained access to Him, and to have spoken to Him alone. Many of the crowds that followed Jesus beheld Him only from a distance, and it was but a small number of privileged souls who had the happiness of private conversation with Him. Far happier are we, for we can approach Him at any time. In the Blessed Eucharist Jesus waits to speak with each one of us in particular, that we may tell Him the wants of our inmost heart and obtain from Him all graces particularly necessary for us."

The life of Jesus on earth began with the moment of His Incarnation. When Mary after she had received the message of the Archangel, gave her consent and spoke her fiat, "Be it done to me according to thy word," in that moment 'the Word was made flesh,' 'the Son of God became man by taking upon himself human nature in Mary's womb and dwelling therein for nine months, like a prisoner in close confinement. The Lord was then already in the world, yet hidden from the eyes of men.

Transfer your thoughts to the life of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Five words from the mouth of Mary, "*Fiat mihi secundum verbum tuum,*" sufficed to cause the Son of God to take flesh in her womb. Similarly five words from the mouth of the priest, "*Hoc est enim Corpus meum,*" spoken at the consecration of the Mass, suffice to bring our blessed Lord Jesus Christ down upon the altar to dwell in the little Host. And, to use the words of a pious writer: "The very life of Our Lord in the sacramental species closely resembles His life in the bosom of His Mother. And yet, how wonderful are the operations of this hidden God! What virtue, what power goes forth from the silent Prisoner of the Tabernacle! What a blessing it is to have Our Lord near to us at all times! How mighty is His influence upon the devout soul that kneels before Him in the tabernacle! How great and how manifold are the streams of grace that flow from the Blessed Sacrament into hearts that thirst for the love of God! How the rays of divine light penetrate into