

What He did in the desert He will do at the Last Supper and in the Tabernacle : the principle is the same, it is the divine goodness which has pity on us. Jesus sees us wandering in the desert of life, and knows that after His Ascension we would be like sheep without a shepherd, exposed to the murderous assaults of the infernal wolf. He will not send us away fasting, leave us without defence or guide. His love questions His power ; He has multiplied the loaves in the desert, He will multiply His Presence in the Blessed Sacrament.

It was at night that the Son of God wrought both miracles. The first at the end of a day consecrated to the people, the second at the end of His own day, the night of Holy Thursday. When He was about to sacrifice Himself for the world, He desired to leave His Disciples and those who believed in Him a last proof of His love. As in the desert He took bread in His hands and raised His eyes to heaven, so in the Temple it takes bread in His holy and venerable hands, and rising His eyes to heaven, as if to show the food He is about to give comes from heaven and leads to it, He gives thanks, blesses the bread, and gives it to His Disciples.

Jesus gives thanks : The Sacrament of our altars is the act of thanksgiving par excellence. In the desert Jesus gave the miraculous bread to His Disciples to distribute among the people, now He gives to priests the great honor of distributing the Eucharistic Bread.

With five loaves Jesus fed five thousand people : with a little consecrated bread He feeds millions of Christians without lessening the extent of His love, without detriment to the multiplication of His body, without harming His unity, or exhausting His divinity.

After the miracle in the desert more bread was left over than had originally been. Since eighteen centuries Jesus gives Himself in food, yet, He is always as infinite, always as good, always as powerful, always God. He gives Himself entirely to each one, and is whole and entire under the least particle.

After the Disciples had gathered up the fragments they filled twelve baskets or as many as there were Apostles. There as many Ciboriums as priests and each Pastor always has his replenished in order to feed the flock entrusted to his care. The Gospel also remarks that