

A Multiplication of Hosts



On Sunday the 4th of August, 1905, the solemnity of the Feast of the Sacred Heart which had been transferred, for some local reason, was to be celebrated in the chapel of the Religious of Gethsemani, at Victoria, in the Argentine Republic and many had gathered there very early for confession and Communion.

The Chaplain was to offer the mass and consecrate enough Hosts for the assistants, outsiders and pupils, but the parish priest became suddenly ill and the Chaplain was obliged to go and celebrate mass in the parish church.

On his return to the chapel, he at once saw he would not be able to give communion to all those present, so resolved to satisfy as many as possible by dividing the ten Hosts then in the ciborium.

The Religious who had invited the faithful to the chapel for communion and who now realized the Chaplain's embarrassment was in great distress. Not to deprive those generous souls who had come so far, and waited so long, she decided to make them approach the Holy Table before the pupils, who could more easily satisfy their devotion another day.

At the same time she repeated unceasingly and with a fervor born of the urgency, this prayer, that only a lively faith could dictate: "Lord Christ, Thou Who didst multiply the loaves in the desert, multiply also the Hosts in the ciborium so that those good souls who desire to receive Thee may not be disappointed".

Meanwhile the time to give Communion was at hand. After reflection the Chaplain had concluded it were better