

and they were honest enough to acknowledge their true meaning, though they walked no more with Him. Let us, too, acknowledge the full force of the decree, but follow it out to the letter as the word of God that is spoken for the regeneration of the world.

To secure the certain attendance of all Catholic children at the parochial schools, the pastoral letter already quoted shows the impropriety of punishing the child for the sin of its parents, and punishing it with the greatest of all punishments possible here upon earth, with the deprivation of Holy Communion. "It is plain," says the letter, "that as Christian instruction cannot be thoroughly and systematically imparted except as an integral part of the school curriculum, parents delinquent in this most important obligation of Catholic discipline burden their conscience with grievous sin." Wherefore it is most prudently directed that "in future no confessor having faculties in the Province absolve parents who require their sons and daughters to attend non-Catholic schools, unless such parents when going to Confession promise that they will send their children to a Catholic school at the time to be fixed by the confessor, or agree that they will abide by the decision of the Bishop after the case has been referred to him." This is true charity in the spirit of Christ.

The legislation, therefore, of the Council of Trent has been authoritatively interpreted for us: "If any one denieth that all and each of Christ's faithful of both sexes are *bound*, when they have attained the years of discretion, to communicate every year, at least at Easter, in accordance with the precepts of Holy Mother Church, let him be anathema."

The sun of love is shining forth. The ice of centuried indifference, error and fear is melting away. The spring already is blossoming in the valleys and all the earth is filled with the sweetness thereof. The Bridegroom behind the lattice of the lonely Tabernacle has waited patiently and long, but His Heart can no longer be restrained and His voice is heard throughout the land: "Arise, **make** haste, **my** love, **my** dove, **my** beautiful one, and come. For the winter is now past, the **rain** is over and gone. The flowers have appeared in the land."

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