

from your hearts to be made partakers of her precious gifts; and "the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God." (2 Cor. iv. 4.) shone unto you.—For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, "hath shined in your hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God, in the face of Christ Jesus." (Ib. v. 6.)

This "admirable light" (1 Pet. ii. 9) you received with unspeakable joy, my dearly beloved children; your eyes were opened, and you saw before your eyes the ark of the New Testament, the beloved spouse of Christ, the One, Holy, Catholic, Apostolic Church, the Church of the living God, "the pillar and ground of the truth" (1 Tim. iii. 13.) that Holy Church which Jesus Christ himself hath established, with which He promised to be "all days, even to the consummation of the world." Matth. xxviii. 20.)

All your desires were then turned towards that Holy Church, which hath "promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come." (1 Tim. iv. 8.) And as "faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Rom. x. 17.) you heard with docile hearts the word of Christ, which He commissioned his apostles, and their successors, in the sacred ministry to "go and teach all nations." (Matth. xxviii. 19.) Thus, "when you had received of us the hearing of the word

of God," taught by His holy Church, "you received it, not as the word of men, but (as it is, indeed) the word of God, who worketh in you that have believed." [1 Thess. ii. 13.] Then, by many tears, many sighs, and prayers, you prepared yourselves for the new life, which you have this day received in the sacrament of baptism.

"Thanks be to God, for His unspeakable gift." [2 Cor. ix. 15.]

"This is the day which the Lord hath made; let us be glad, and rejoice therein."

"For He that is mighty hath done great things" to you, my dear children, "and holy is His name." [St. Luke i. 49.]

You who "have been baptised in Christ" this day, "have put on Christ." [Gal. iii. 27.] Now "you are washed," now "you are sanctified," now "you are justified in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, and in the spirit of our God," (1 Cor. vi. 11.) Now God the Father Almighty only sees in you vessels of election. For "there is now no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus." (Rom. viii. 1.) Your souls are adorned with the precious gifts of divine faith, hope, and charity. You are clothed with "the wedding garment" (Matt. 22.) the robe of innocence;—you are living members of the mystical body of Christ. "You are come to Mount Sion, and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and the company of