

There are times when we may be so exhausted by physical pain as to cry out :—" Who has ever suffered like this? I cannot stand this much longer." A soft voice answers back : " See My wounds, dear child, my macerated flesh, My thorn-pierced brow, my hands and feet bared through, My open side, My bloodless veins. These are the proofs of my love for thee, wilt thou not suffer on a little longer for My sake ? " These appeals of compassionate love come to us from the crucifix, but more frequently from the tabernacle. The crucifix is but an image, the Eucharist is Jesus Himself speaking more forcibly and more persuasively than could any friend of earth.

O Christian soul, when bowed beneath the weight of a great sorrow, say not :—" My soul is too crushed, I cannot go to Communion " It is precisely because you are fainting that you need the help of the Divine Cyrenian. You remember the Bible story of the exhausted prophet who heard the Angel say : " Arise and eat, for thou hast yet a great way to go." III Kings XIX, 7 He walked for forty days and forty nights toward the mount of God, fortified by the miraculous bread.

Elias typifies the Christian sufferer who has already travelled over a long, painful road, and whose weary eyes sees the interminable stretch that lies before him.

O suffering soul, arise and eat the " Bread of the Strong ! " Sustained by the God who upholds your tired soul, you will trudge on courageously to the end of the dolorous way, you will climb the mount of God and when you knock at Heaven's door, you will hear the soft, sweet voice of the Divine Cyrenian exclaiming : " Open, Father, it is I ; *we* have carried *our* cross well ; give us the recompense promised to those who have borne their sorrow in silent, loving resignation to Thy will.

