

back her outer robe, turned a little to the right, as though to intercept the stranger, and, leaning forward while the Infant reclines in both her hands, extends Him toward the altar-rail. In her face there is wistful confidence. Who can refuse her Child? Her lips would speak, did she not know that what she offers is far more eloquent than words. The Infant has turned slightly from His mother. His head is raised; the lips are parted in a smile, and the short, rounded arms and tiny hands are held out in mute appeal to be lifted from Mary's hands. Beneath the statue is the door of the tabernacle. Within, our Lord waits silently and with infinite patience. He who rules the minds of His creatures has inspired His servant, the devout sculptor, to place above the tabernacle this marble invitation to approach. To those who accept He gives Himself without reserve, by the hands of the priest, who takes Mary's place. Even love could do no more.

So Mary may be said to be always urging the faithful to frequent Communion. When she appeared, for example, to Bernadette at Lourdes, did she say to that little maid: "Have my image set up in this grotto, and I will scatter my favors among all who come to do me homage"? No. She ordered Bernadette to "Go and tell the priests to build a church on this spot," because in every church there is a tabernacle, and in every tabernacle the Holy Eucharist, and where the Holy Eucharist is there are communicants, for she knows that the most effective way of applying the Redemption to souls is by bringing them to Communion. Visitors at Lourdes to-day on witnessing the magnificent processions of the Blessed Sacrament, the countless Masses said in the Basilica, and the crowds of communicants who throng to the altars are sometimes at a loss as to whether Lourdes is a sanctuary of Mary or of her Divine Son. It is the shrine of both. For since that night the shepherds found Mary and her Child together the two can never be separated, and as in Bethlehem she held out her little Son to peasants and kings, so now at Lourdes she offers Him in the Holy Eucharist to both rich and poor, and makes the granting of her favors dependent