

Christ was no more visible with them, that they truly became Saints.

The visible presence of Our Lord would not change our nature. No circumstance can make virtue easy and natural to us. If it become so, it would no longer deserve the name of virtue; it would not be entitled to a crown. Heaven must be conquered. The reward is in proportion to the difficulty and sacrifice. True we can be victorious only with the assistance of God's grace. But this is, if anything, more directly connected with the invisible than with the visible presence of Our Lord.

It would be a consolation to see Our Lord. Has the Eucharist no consolation in store for us? See what a source of happiness it has ever been to pious and saintly persons! If we derive little or no joy from it, is not the blame all our own? It must come from the fact that we have little love for Our Lord.

As a means of sanctification, what can be compared to the Eucharist? What an inexhaustible abundance of graces, in the simple presence of Jesus in the holy tabernacle, in the sacrifice of the Mass, and above all, in holy communion! Our Lord has lavished on us His choicest treasures; He has made Himself our food. I fear we are far from duly appreciating the inestimable blessing of the Real Presence of our Lord in the Eucharist. It should make us as happy as angels almost.

COMMUNION AND VISIT.

We should be grateful for this bread of life, this bread of salvation, and show our appreciation by receiving holy Communion as often as we can. We know our dangers, and should fortify ourselves against them. Our loving Lord invites us to strengthen ourselves with Himself, and when we heed not the invitation, then, He warns us of the consequences and tells us that "unless we eat of His body and drink of His blood we shall not have life in us."

And do we notice the truth of this? Who can remain long in virtue unless with the special assistance of God — nature is so weak and Satan is so strong. Left to ourselves it can only be but a little while till we fall into the worst