

Before further examining the foundations upon which this devotion rests, and answering a few objections, we may give a brief glance at its history. It was on May 1st. 1868 that Ven. Father Eymard uttered the words quoted above. Before his death, he had not only instilled the devotion to Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament into the hearts of his spiritual sons and daughters, but also preached it to the people who frequented his little chapel. He even secured the approbation of several French Bishops. In accordance with the wishes of their founder, the Religious of the Congregation of the Most Blessed Sacrament continued to honor Mary under her new title, and to spread the devotion by all the means in their power. The late Superior General, Very Reverend Father Louis Estèvenon, was especially zealous in this respect. Under his direction, a religious made a sketch which was improved by an Italian artist, and the first picture of Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament was given to the world. Mary is represented standing on a bank of clouds with the Child Jesus in her left arm. Her right hand calls our attention to the chalice, surmounted by a radiant Host, which the Child Jesus is carrying. She wears a red robe, and over it a blue veil covering her head and shoulders and flowing down below her knees. The picture has been reproduced in Europe and America, and a number of statues have lately been modelled on it. Not content with this, Father Estèvenon was bent on having the devotion to Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament recognized by the Pope. Profiting by a visit of Archbishop Gauthier of Kingston, he asked him to exert his influence in having an indulgence granted for the recitation of the little prayer «Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament, Mother and Model of adorers pray for us». His Grace drew up the petition, and sent out for the Vatican for his appointed audience. When in presence of the Holy Father,