

beyond the power of these twelve rude, illiterate and timid fishermen? They themselves do not fully understand this divine doctrine, how can they preach it then to others? How will they dare to stand up against the vice and wickedness of the world, how will they have courage to announce frankly to the nations what God wants them to do under pain of eternal damnation, when they had not so much courage as to stay with Christ at His capture, when the prince of these Apostles thrice denied his Master, when, after the resurrection, Christ always finds them behind bolted doors for fear of the Jews? Yes, Christ knew this also, hence He promised to send them the Holy Ghost, who should teach them all things, who should abide with them and assist them in their divine mission to the end of the world.

Behold them after Pentecost. Now they understand Christ's teaching and firmly believe it; now they are afraid no longer, but preach the truth to Jews and Gentiles, to the learned and ignorant, before mighty rulers and simple peasants. They spread the good tidings in all parts of the world, by their new religion they change the whole face of the earth and finally they seal their teaching with their blood. After them their successors continue the work, the same spirit guiding them, strengthening them, helping to preserve, in fact, the divine doctrine for already two thousand years against all the attacks of heresy and schism.

It is the Holy Ghost then, to whom we owe the possession of the truth, the knowledge of our glorious end and of the means to reach it.

Not riches, therefore, not honors or sensual pleasures are the end of our existence, the objects that can satisfy the cravings of a human heart. The tempter may tell us so, but he is not a spirit of truth, he is a liar. With a lie he began in heaven. "I shall be like the Most High," he said, deceiving a multitude of angels, and bringing them thus to irreparable ruin. "You shall be like gods," he tells our first parents; they believe him and soon see how cruelly they were deceived. To us he represents sin in the brightest colors, promising us that in it we shall find happiness;

but he deceives us most shamefully and woe to us if we believe him. Many have made the bitter experience. Therefore we should never listen to this malicious fiend, who hates us, and only seeks our ruin. But let us listen to the Spirit of truth, let us follow His words, for He truly loves us and desires but to save us.

Then the Holy Ghost, who was given to us on this day, not only enlightens our mind, but also comforts our heart.

Sadness and sorrow is another fatal consequence of Adam's fall. "Few are the years of my life and afflicted with much sorrow," sighed already the Patriarch Jacob, and with him every pilgrim in this valley of tears feels the pressure of misery and suffering. The new-born babe begins his life with a wail, he weeps and cries for consolation and help even before he is conscious of his misery, and this need of comfort and help accompanies him throughout his whole life. What hard work is it not for many to make their living; day and night the difficulty of providing the necessities of life oppress them. "In the sweat of thy brow thou shalt eat thy bread," is indeed a reality. Then there are the sufferings of sickness so frequent and often so painful. Finally a source of still greater afflictions than the pains and sufferings of the body, are those of the soul. The fierce battle we have to wage against our passions, the bitter reproach of our conscience after sin, the fear of an angry Judge and of the fires of hell, unkindness, calumny, harsh treatment received from others, the thought that we have to die, in short, doubts and anxieties of every description, all these are so many daggers that pierce our heart and cause us most cruel anguish. What suffering humanity desires is comfort. The afflicted husband, the dejected wife, the poor and tortured sinner, know how true all this is; all feel how the troubled heart calls for consolation, peace and rest, which the world, alas, cannot give. Yes, the world cannot console us, but our God, our loving Father, and He alone, can do it, and although we always foolishly offend Him, He is most solicitous to pour into our afflicted hearts His heavenly consolation.

Do you not feel calmer and less de-