

when their senses perceived in the Holy Eucharist all the qualities of bread, men would be led to infer that the Blessed Sacrament was meant by Him to be as common and as universal a food for the soul as bread is for the body.

Do not the very words used by our Lord when He gave us the Holy Eucharist indicate that He meant it to be, above all things, food? For as He handed the consecrated Bread to the Apostles, the great High Priest did not say: "Take ye and adore," but "Take ye and eat," showing that His main purpose in instituting the Blessed Sacrament was to provide our souls with food. The primitive Church, indeed, was so given to considering the Holy Eucharist almost exclusively as the Bread of the Soul that it is not till later ages that we see springing up those beautiful devotions to the Real Presence, like Benediction and Forty Hours.

Wherever there is even a small Catholic population, a church is generally to be found. In each of these churches there is a tabernacle, in each tabernacle a ciborium, in each ciborium one hundred Hosts, let us say, each of which must find a home in some human heart. Empty that cup and the priest will immediately fill with Living Bread another, so that the children of the Bridegroom may not be compelled to fast even for a single day from the "Finest of the Wheat."

For it is "daily" bread, be it noted, that we are bidden ask for in the Lord's Prayer, and that there may be absolutely no doubt about our meaning we are taught by Christ Himself to insist that it is daily bread "this day" that we require. With the bold, imperative "Give," we almost demand it as a right, for it is truly "ours" as sons. *Vere panis filiorum.*

If, then, in the light of the Fathers' interpretation and of reason, the fourth petition of the Lord's Prayer is a persistent request for daily Communion, why do we not receive it daily? Why do we not come to take what we repeatedly ask for? Our Redeemer surely would not bid us ask for what He has no wish to give. No; it is we that are wanting. "Give us this day our daily