

they can't — better far Communion without a long thanksgiving, than no Communion at all."

Mrs. Mary was silent.

"And here is another matter for you to consider, Mrs. Mary," went on Father Carson relentlessly. "Do you realize, how very far the Manley boys are getting ahead of Bobby in that inward sanctity which Holy Communion brings? Every Holy Communion, mind, worthily received, carries with it into the soul, besides all manner of actual graces, an unimaginable increase in sanctifying grace. And sanctifying grace is the pure gold of the Spirit with which we are to purchase our glory in heaven. Perhaps—mind I say *perhaps*, because God has not chosen to tell us—perhaps all the merits of all a lifetime may not gain us as great an increase of this grace as we get, through the merits of Jesus, in one Holy Communion. And here they are, those Manley boys, going day after day, month after month, and doubling and trebling the store of grace in their souls, while poor little Bobby—because his good mother won't listen to our Holy Father the Pope—has never made his First Communion at all, and so has to be satisfied with only that amount of the gold of sanctifying grace which his own poor little actions can bring him."

"Oh stop!—please do! You make me feel dreadfully jealous and envious and all" cried Mrs. Mary. "There! I give up! Bobby shall make his First Communion as soon as ever he can, and shall go every day of his life, if his mother can make him!"

"Now not too fast either," said Father Carson, with a ghost of his former smile. "Bobby musn't be ordered, nor driven to go. But if you make him feel, in the way that mothers know, how good it is for him to go often, and how it will please our dear Lord and you, he will take to it gladly enough. Do you think a child cannot be made to understand what a great grace Holy Communion is? Only try it, and see. But use clear and true and easily understood arguments which will appeal to his mind, and if he does not wish to go, on this morning or that, and has some good reason, then leave him quite free. No bullying, mind!"

(to be continued)