

There are many who wish they had lived at the time of Our Lord. Now, this is ten thousand times more the time of Our Lord than when He walked the earth in His visible humanity. Then He was corporally present in but one place at a time, and, comparatively speaking, but a small number of men were blessed with the sight of His divine countenance. But now in every place where His word is preached, He Himself abides, not in figure but in reality. Many of you live quite close to a church; you, perhaps, pass it daily in your walks, or as you go to and from your work. Do you think of it? Do you realize that He Himself is there, as truly present as He was present in the Holy Land eighteen centuries ago? Do you realize that the same pierced hands are waiting there to bless you, the same gentle eyes to gaze upon you, and that the same adorable heart is calling you, loving you, waiting for you to give It some little sign of love or at least recognition—if nothing more than a genuflection?

Oh! do you think that if Catholics realized what they believe, it would be possible to go into a church at any hour and find it empty? Do you think that people—Aye and good people, too, who go regularly to their duties and, perhaps hear Mass daily—could pass and re-pass churches without seeing or feeling the necessity of entering, even if only for a mement.

Again, others, after five minutes prayer, seem to find nothing to say, and, if they have not come provided with some good book of devotions are at a loss what to do, and what to think about. How, supposing you had lived centuries ago, and, by some happy chance had dwelt near the holy house at Nazareth: If our Lord had given you permission to go in and speak to Him as often as you wished, would you not have found something to say?

Would you not have wished to discuss with Him every daily joy and sorrow, to seek His sympathy in every disappointment or contradiction? Would you not have entered sometimes to thank Him for gladdening the earth with His presence, to acknowledge His kindness, to beg some gift, or to ask a blessing on yourself and others. And if any one insulted or denied Him in your