

gues — and the Church has solemnly confirmed this reasoning — holds true no less of Holy Communion.

So, again, in an average parish, where the priest had most carefully examined all the children, only six were found towards the end of the year who had not received their First Communion, and these had only been delayed for a time because of extraordinary circumstances. Here let me add that, to facilitate the work of the pastor, the Sister in charge of the lowest grade—which hereafter will be normally the First Communion grade—should be chosen for her tact, her knowledge of the spiritual life, and of the souls of children. So even those who are slow of intellect and whose Communion would have to be postponed beyond the seventh year, will often unfold so as sufficiently to understand though they may not be able to recite by rote, the few elementary truths which are required to be known.

Here let me point with all sincerity to the noble document on the decree "*Quam Singulari*" drawn up by the Bishops of the Province of Cincinnati, with its nine episcopal signatures. We do not hesitate to call it one of the noblest achievements of the American hierarchy and one of the most glorious monuments of the loyalty of the American Church to the Vicar of Christ.

By this splendid document the thousand fears of timid souls, their dread of possible irreverence, their vain consternation about the Catholic schools, are all swept aside with a noble dignity; "The Pope, on account of his position as Vicar of Christ and Head of the Church, guided by the Holy Spirit, can best determine what is expedient for the welfare of souls. It behooves all to comply with what the Holy Father prescribes in the Decree."

There are here no talmudic glosses to confuse the text, no such explanations as that a learned doctor in Israel, fortunately living on the other side of the great waters, who instructs us that by the seventh year the Pope in reality meant "the tenth, or later, or even sooner." The first protestants revealed themselves when the promise of the Eucharist was given. "How," they exclaimed, "can this man give us of His Flesh to eat?" The words were so clear that they could not misunderstand them,