

### The Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

"SUFFER the little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not." Thus spoke our Lord when He blessed the little ones who flocked around Him and whom the disciples tried to keep back, because they feared their Master would be fatigued.

What a memorable day that must have been for those children and their happy mothers! These mothers pressed forward eagerly and were most anxious that their dear little ones should see and touch the Divine Master and be blessed by Him.

The same good Lord and Master, the same mighty God is on our altars and bids us come to Him that He may impart His blessing and His gifts to us. We deeply prize the blessings of priests and saintly people; we travel a great distance to secure the benediction of the Holy Father. How is it we are so utterly indifferent about God's blessing in the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament? A living, fervent faith should make us realize and appreciate the value of Benediction.

We read of another benediction which Our Lord Jesus Christ will pronounce in these words: "Come ye blessed of my Father, possess the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." Mindful of this benediction at the Last Judgment, we can pray to God that we may be numbered among the elect; we can ask of Jesus the grace of final perseverance, the most precious of His gifts, which will secure for us the crown of eternal glory. Some there are who, in the multiplicity of their necessities and under the weight of their sorrows and perplexities, express at Benediction their faith and confidence in the goodness of God, whilst they submit their hearts and bow their heads in perfect resignation to the divine will; they strike their breasts when the Sacred Host is held over them at the moment of Benediction, while they whisper "Jesus, I believe in Thee; Jesus, I place all my confidence in Thee; Jesus, I love Thee with my whole

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