

or twice in the course of their lives, a few only would be happy enough to deal privately with Him, for any length of time.

How different is the case now that we have Our Lord in the Blessed Eucharist! He is of easy access to all for He habitually resides in thousands of places. We all can visit Him, at any time we chose, and stay as long as we please, and return again as soon as we like. He is ever ready to receive us. We have not to wait for our turn, or to shorten our interviews to make room for others; we may all call at the same time, and yet commune with Him, as privately as if we were alone.

But you will say, it is not the same thing. Although we are sure of His presence in the Eucharist, still we do not see Him, we do not hear His voice, He does not answer us, we do not behold His countenance, etc. If we could only do this, the impression would be so great that we never should forget it, it would fill our hearts with the love of Jesus, and make us saints.

Let us not deceive ourselves. No doubt it would gratify our curiosity, but would it do much more? Those who enjoyed all the advantages you seem to value so much, were they all benefited by them? When Our Lord was on earth, did He captivate all hearts, prevent all sins? What were the effects of His visible presence? To many it was a curse rather than a blessing; they became hardened in their sins and much worse than they were before. Some, no doubt, were changed for the better, but they were rather few in number. See the apostles. They indeed had the best possible chance of being benefited by the visible presence of Christ. They were constantly with Him for over three years. They had Him so to speak all to themselves. They witnessed all His miracles, heard all His instructions. He took special care to train and form them, and yet what was the result? Without speaking of the traitor, we find them, after three years, almost as ignorant and as worldly as at the start. It is true that they had become greatly attached to Our Lord and loved Him sincerely; but their love seems to have been rather a human feeling. It is only when