

yet in virtue of the Divine Blood flowing upon you by absolution, not only are you cleansed from the sins you have declared, but even of those that have escaped your memory. There is, therefore, no obligation to confess again before presenting yourself at the Holy Table, nor even of making the act of contrition for the mortal sins forgotten.

I am always astonished to see a doctrine so clear and evident appear new, to many when I explain it at the end of the missions, in order to render less frequent, at least, these returns to the confessional before the general Communion.

I remember among others a priest who, although well instructed, appeared almost scandalized at the foregoing teaching, and I had trouble in convincing him of its truth. It is, however, the teaching of a Doctor of the Church, St. Alphonsus di Liguori. He declares it "absolutely conformable to reason," and says in his *Confessore diretto* : "He who, after confession, remembers some sin omitted through forgetfulness, is not bound to confess before communicating. It suffices for him to declare it at his next confession."

Could the holy Doctor speak more clearly? Then, Christian soul, when you perceive that you have forgotten a mortal sin, make, nevertheless, your Communion in peace and tranquillity of spirit, not only once, but, for the same reason, several times and even every day, without presenting yourself anew to the confessor.

I do not say, — understand me, — that it would not be better to reconcile yourself before Communion if you have an *opportunity*. No, for every sacramental absolution received with good dispositions purifies the soul in the Blood of Jesus Christ. I say only this : first, you are not in the least obliged to it ; secondly, you ought to be at peace, not going anew to your confessor for mortal sins forgotten, especially when you see him very much occupied hearing confessions, and, above all, when there is an extraordinary crowd of people. That is the time to despise as *vain* the fear of communicating unworthily.

(to be continued.)