

(1) Conc. Tren.
Sess. 6. De
Sacram.

true justice begins, increases, and is renewed in the souls."¹ It is by sanctifying grace, the fruit of the passion and of the merits of Jesus Christ, that every soul is regenerated, justified, sanctified, and that its union with God is consummated, and this grace, the sacraments communicate. Nothing then can be more holy, more august, more salutary than the sacraments, which Jesus-Christ has bequeathed to his Church, as so many fountains of grace and life, for the salvation of mankind.

What subject could more worthily engage the attention of God's Pontiff intrusted with the honor of his worship and the interests of his glory, whom he has established pastors in his Church, to keep watch and ward over the salvation of the faithful, "as being to render an account of their souls!"² The profanation of the sacraments is an insult directed against God himself: it is a sacrilege. The sources of life and grace are perverted into sources of malediction and death, with respect to those who desecrate them.

Hence, the Fathers of the Council, glowing with an ardent zeal for the honour of God and the salvation of your souls, deemed it a duty incumbent on them, to remind the priests, established to be "the ministers of Jesus-Christ and the dispensers of the mysteries of God,"³ with what deep feelings of religion and piety, and with what angelic purity, they should administer the sacraments; with what zeal they should labour, to dispose the faithful for their worthy reception; with what saintly ardour they should devote themselves to administer them, for the salvation of souls; with what careful precision and religious attention; in fine, they should observe the holy rubrics, prescribed by the Church for their administration, in order to discharge, in a manner worthy of God, the duties of their sublime and awful ministry.

(2) 1. Corinth
6-1

But while addressing these serious admonitions to the ministers of the sacraments, you, D. B. B., were present to the thoughts of the Bishops: for it is in your behalf that they are charged to administer them. With the charity they entertain for you, could they forget to offer you also some instructions on so important a subject? Could they feel themselves dispensed from reminding you of the holiness of the Sacraments; with what care you ought to prepare for their reception; what dispositions should accompany so holy an action, what dread you