

Assistance at Mass.

Christians who are careless about assisting at the holy sacrifice of the Mass offer many plausible reasons in extenuation, whereas the true reason is that they are completely absorbed by their worldly affairs, full of solicitude and eagerness to advance those miserable interests for which all labor is light, no difficulty too great. How quickly all this changes when there is question of assisting at Mass! Those same Christians then grow careless and indifferent and allege frivolous excuses such as their numberless occupations, their feeble health, the care of their family, the lack of time, the excess of work. To be brief, if holy mother Church did not oblige them under pain of grievous sin to hear Mass at least on Sundays and holydays, God only knows whether they would ever enter a church, or bow before an altar.

O shame! O crying evil of our day! How far are we from the fervor of the primitive Christians who, assisted daily at the holy sacrifice and received thereat the "Bread of Angels". Nevertheless, they also had their cares and occupations and families; but with their spirit of faith they sought in the Mass itself a powerful help to aid them in properly managing their affairs, to guard their temporal and spiritual interests. Poor blind mortals! when shall we open our eyes and see the error of our way? Oh! Let us rouse ourselves! Let our first and principal devotion be daily assistance at Mass and frequent reception of Holy Communion.

To reach this desirable end I find no more powerful incentive than example. There is a proverb which says: we live by example, meaning that what we see others doing becomes easy for us to do also. St. Augustine asks: could you not likewise do what this or that one does? The example of eminent personages generally makes more impression than even the most extraordinary piety of ordinary Christians bearing out the well known axiom: "the earth conforms to the king's example". So to spur us on to emulate them, I might cite a long list of kings who assisted daily at Mass, but space permits me to mention only one or two. Constantine the Great

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