

densely packed by anxious worshippers, awaiting admission to the sacred edifice. Some of these youthful orators prove themselves singularly proficient in their difficult task, and both by word and gesture readily win the attention of their listeners. Some on the other hand, are so overcome by nervousness that they are, perforce obliged to read the sentiments they cannot trust themselves to deliver.

Besides these juvenile sermons, it is also customary for the children to act short dramas, in which the action is indicative of the same sacred mystery.

On the feast of the Epiphany the Bambino is carried in state to the main entrance of the church, where, from the top of the historic flight of steps leading down to the piazza below, its blessing is given to the city and to the countless multitudes which throng every approach. Those who have spent Christmas in Rome are unlikely to readily forget the striking ceremonies of Ara Cœli.

Why Jesus is in the Blessed Sacrament.

Our Lord was so afraid that we would eventually forget Him that He took up His abode in the midst of us, made His home among us, placed His service within our reach, so that we might not be able to think of Him without calling to mind His love. Giving Himself thus, He hoped perhaps not to be forgotten.

Whoever reflects seriously on the Eucharist, but above all, whoever participates in It, must feel convinced that Our Lord loves him. He feels that he has in Him a Father. He feels that he is loved as a child. He feels that he has the right to go to Him as to a father and to speak freely with Him. When in church at the foot of the tabernacle, he is at home with his Father.
