

Was not the Eucharist prefigured by these words of St. John : " Having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them unto the end ? " When the soul, like the beloved disciple, has tasted the infinite sweetness of the love of Jesus, then the divine master may speak and His words will be understood.

We quote the Saviour's words to the Capharnaïtes regarding the Eucharist, uttered a year before its institution. I am the living Bread come down from heaven... The Bread I will give them is my flesh... This Bread come down from heaven is not that which your fathers did eat in the desert without preventing them from dying... Whoever eats this Bread shall live eternally... Could Jesus attest more forcibly the identity of His divine substance with the Eucharistic Bread ? This Bread is not the Manna, it is not ordinary Bread, it is not a lifeless type, an unreal figure : it is His Flesh — it is Himself.

Behold the priceless gift the Man-God promised in the Synagogue of Capharnaüm, gift having two names : one for the appearance : Bread ; the other for the reality : His Flesh. Behold the realization of this promised gift, on the eve of His cruel death, in the hour of His last legacy, bequeathed by supreme love. Seated at table with His twelve disciples, He takes bread into His holy and venerable hands and having blessed it, presents it to his disciples saying : " Take and eat for this is my Body." Then presenting them the Chalice He says : " Drink ye all of this, for this is my Blood which shall be shed for many."

It is the full complete realization of His divine promise. It is His Body and Blood which have never ceased to be united to His divinity since the Incarnation ; it is His humanity which appeared glorious and immortal on the morning of the Resurrection.

The Church, the Spouse of Christ, and the inheritor of His truth and of His love, also commands our belief in the Eucharist. Her pastors, direct successors of the Apostles, are the guardians of the adorable truths announced by Jesus Christ and cannot deceive us ; nor would she wish to do so. Divine Mother that she is she loves her children as God Himself does, and with Him, her spiritual spouse shares the same spirit of love and