

find an answer which will satisfy Catholics. It is because there is a continual stream of grace flowing into the souls of Catholics through those channels of grace which Christ has reserved for the members of His Visible Church, through the sacraments and the sacramentals. It is because the fruits of every Mass said all the world over belong as of right to Catholics in a way in which they do not belong to those outside the Church. It is because of the intense and peculiar love which Christ our Lord entertains for His Body, and for all those who are members of it, in which special love none else participate, although at the same time all mankind are the objects of His love. It is because the faithful who belong to the Church are the children of Jesus Christ in a sense in which none others are, sheep of His flock, members of the household of God, heirs of the promises, temples of the Holy Ghost, partakers of the heavenly banquet of His own Body and Blood, as those outside the Church cannot be. All these, and a thousand other privileges, are the exclusive heritage of Catholics.

“ But there is also another solution of the fact which even those outside the Church can scarcely deny, that within the Church saints abound and flourish, but not outside. If we turn our thoughts away from the supernatural gifts which are the heritage of the Church which Christ had founded and of none other, and look at the different conditions of existence, which separate off those within the Church from those outside, we notice two points of contrast which necessarily affect the whole of the spiritual life of individual. The one refers primarily to belief, and secondarily to practice. Those within the Church pass their lives in a continual and necessary attitude of obedience to an external authority, which lives and speaks and cannot be misunderstood, and which determines for them what they may lawfully believe and what they may not. It cannot be evaded, its decisions cannot be explained away. It speaks with a voice which is always authoritative, but is infallible