

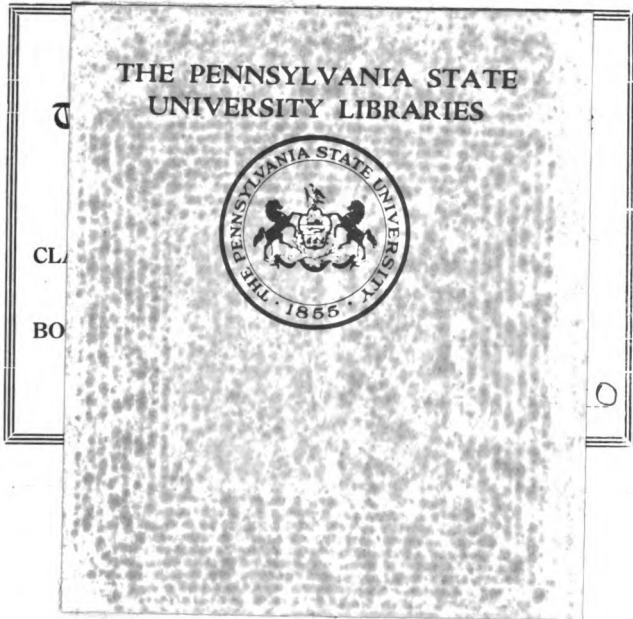
CATHOLIC EDUCATION SERIES



RELIGION THIRD BOOK

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THE HOLY TRINITY—*Durer*

Catholic Education Series



RELIGION THIRD BOOK

THE CATHOLIC EDUCATION PRESS
WASHINGTON, D. C.

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PREFACE

The teaching of Religion must follow as closely as possible the example given by the Divine Teacher, Jesus Christ. In accordance with this principle, the First Book of the present series appeals to the instincts of the child and draws its lessons from Nature, as the Master did through His parables. The Second Book has for its special aim the development of the idea of Law and the inculcation of obedience to its precepts, closing with an account of the first transgression and an intimation of God's merciful design. In the Third Book the work of Redemption is more fully set forth, and its continuation through the Church and the Sacramental System is explained.

When He first made known these essential truths to His disciples, Our Saviour referred again and again to God's dealings with His people through the Old Dispensation—to the promises of a Redeemer, the prophecies, types and figures which were to be fulfilled in His own life and mission and death. What He thus realized in Himself, he endowed with a new and richer meaning by establishing the Church and entrusting to it the means of grace whereby the fruits of His Redemption are communicated to all mankind.

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This method finds its application in the Third Book. The history of personages like Joseph and Moses, of events like the passage of the Red Sea, and of ritual observances, such as the eating of the Paschal Lamb, is outlined and correlated with the realities of the New Testament. Our Lord is thus presented as the center in which all signs and symbols of the Old Law converge and from which the religious truths and practices of the New radiate with the light and strength of His personality.

It will be noted that this method not only brings to

view the realization of types that forecast the inner life of the faithful Christian and the dispensation of grace through an appointed ministry, but also the divinely established order of government, whereby the Church of Christ is to be ruled. Even where God guides the Chosen People in the most direct and visible manner, He speaks to them through leaders whom He designates. This authoritative leadership is perpetuated in the Church as an essential means of preserving doctrine and discipline. It is, therefore, extremely necessary that the child should understand, according to his needs and abilities, this fundamental element in the organization of the Christian body, so that he may more readily understand the development of doctrine in strictly dogmatic statement which the later books of this series will contain.

A further suggestion seems to be needful for the teachers who take up this Third Book. As the method here followed consists not in a mere adding on of new truths to those that have already been learned, but rather in a restatement, with a continually enlarging view, of the same essential truths, there is an inner relation of growth from the First Book onward. Thus the idea of food is carried out through the manna of the desert and the bread that came down from Heaven and that is still given in Holy Communion. Similarly the value of obedience is shown, under different forms, in each of the books. It will, therefore, be useful to recall at each new unfolding of these ideas the earlier presentation through lessons from Nature or through the stories contained in the Second Book. By this means the instinctive tendencies of the child, his imagination and his growing intelligence will be mutually helpful and will be prepared to grasp and to hold firmly the truths of Religion when these are presented in more technical language.

In the First and Second Books prominence is given to nature study, domestic study and song. The omission of

these in the Third Book does not imply that they can be dispensed with in the rest of the course, but rather that they are to serve a wider purpose by laying the foundation of school work in literature, history, science and music. As expansion along these several lines will require more space than can be given in the Third and later books of this series, another series, now in course of preparation, will be added. This arrangement, while allowing more thorough treatment of each topic in the present series, will also realize the essential aim of Christian education by permeating with the spirit of religion each subject that is taught in the school.

We are indebted to Messrs. Small, Maynard & Company for permission to use the selections from Father Tabb's Poems and Lyrics which are contained in this volume, to the Grafton Press for permission to use the English translation of the several liturgical hymns taken from "Early Christian Hymns," by Daniel Joseph Donahoe, and to Rev. Charles L. O'Donnell, C. S. C., Ph. D., for a number of poems written especially for this volume.

EDWARD A. PACE

THOMAS E. SHIELDS

The Catholic University of America,
June, 1910.

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PART I

THE CHURCH

“And I will lay the key of the house of David upon his shoulder: and he shall open, and none shall shut: and he shall shut, and none shall open.”—Isaias XX, 22.

“And I will give to thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven. And whatsoever thou shalt bind upon earth, it shall be bound also in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth, it shall be loosed also in heaven.”

Matt. XVI, 19.



CHRIST'S CHARGE TO PETER—*Raphael*

Prayer from the Roman Missal for June 30.

O God, who intrusting to Blessed Peter, thy Apostle, the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven, didst bestow upon him the power of binding and of loosing, grant that with the help of his intercession, we may be set free from the bonds of our sins.

FAITH, HOPE AND CHARITY

LIGHT

We know thee not, save that when thou art gone.

Thy sister, Beauty, follows in thy train,
Leaving the soul in exile till the dawn

Come with the gift of franchisement again.

—*Father Tabb*

When God created our First Parents, he made them very happy. No one in this world will ever again be as happy as they were. Only those who go to Heaven and live there with God are as happy as Adam and Eve were before the Fall.

God gave them everything their hearts could desire. He gave them a beautiful home, where the days were bright and full of sunshine, and a garden that yielded flowers and fruits without labor. He filled the garden with birds that sang sweet songs and with animals of all kinds that loved and obeyed Adam and Eve.

All these things were good and beautiful, and our First Parents thanked God for them, but they were not the things that made them happy. The real secret of their happiness was the love of God which filled their hearts to overflowing.

FAITH—*Raphael*

Now, the love of God which made them so happy came from the perfect faith which God had given them. As long as they believed in God without doubting they loved Him with their whole hearts and obeyed Him joyously in all things.

When God told our First Parents that if they obeyed Him they would never die, they believed Him. When He told them that, after they had lived in Paradise for a time, He would take them to Heaven they trusted Him. They had a firm hope of obtaining whatever God promised them. Their souls were thus made pleasing to God by the three divine virtues—faith, hope and charity.

All this was completely changed the moment Eve sinned against faith by doubting God's word and believing the serpent when he said that God

had told an untruth. At once all the beautiful light left her and ugly temptations and sins entered into her soul.

When charity left her soul, selfishness and greed took its place and made her desire even more than God had given to her. Pride made her want to be equal to God, and so she easily believed the devil when he told her that by eating the forbidden fruit she would become like God. She knew God would be angry with her, but still she disobeyed Him and ate the fruit. Then she knew the serpent had deceived her, and she lost hope of all that God had promised to her.

These were dreadful sins which Eve committed; they filled her soul with wickedness and made her wretched and unhappy. Like all wicked people, Eve wished to make others commit sin and be as wretched as herself, so she took some of the fruit to Adam and begged him to eat it. Adam disobeyed God rather than displease Eve, and in preferring Eve's wish to God's command, he committed a dreadful sin. Then darkness filled his soul, too, and all happiness died in his heart.

After this, everything our First Parents saw in Paradise reminded them of their sins and increased

their suffering. They were afraid to meet God, and so they hid themselves. Their minds had become so darkened by sin that they forgot God could see them at all times. They would have died of shame and sorrow if God had not taken pity on them.

After they had confessed their sins to God in shame and sorrow, He gave them hope. He sent



HOPE—*Raphael*

them out of Paradise and told them they would have to labor all their lives, and that they would have to raise their family in pain and heartache. But He promised them that if they still believed in Him, He would, after a long time, send a Redeemer into the world who would save them and their children and take them to Heaven.

The children of Adam and Eve gave them a great deal of trouble. Cain killed his brother

Abel, and God cursed him. Cain's children and grandchildren were very wicked. God gave Adam and Eve a third son, whom they named Seth. His children were good for a time, but after a while they began to associate with the children of Cain and became wicked like them. In the end, there was only one man and his family in all the world who believed in God and loved and obeyed Him. This man's name was Noe.



CHARITY—*Raphael*

THOUGHTS FOR US

Faith, Hope and Love—these three
Are life's deep root;
They reach into infinity,
Whence life doth shoot.
But Faith and Hope have not attained
The Eternal best;
While love, sweet love, the end has gained,—
In God to rest.

—*Bishop Spalding*

God kept the promise He made to Adam and Eve by sending His Son Jesus down from Heaven to save us. Jesus showed His love for us by dying on the cross to obtain forgiveness for our sins. He also showed His love for us by founding the Catholic Church to teach us all that God wishes us to know and to tell us what we must do so that we may go to Heaven when we die.

By His death on the cross, Jesus also gave back to us the beautiful virtues of faith, hope and charity, which our First Parents lost by their sins. We make these divine virtues grow stronger in our souls by saying the acts of Faith, Hope and Charity every morning and evening.

AN ACT OF FAITH

O my God! I firmly believe that Thou art one God in three Divine Persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost; I believe that Thy Divine Son became man, and died for our sins, and that He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe these and all the truths which the Holy Catholic Church teaches, because Thou hast revealed them, who canst neither deceive nor be deceived.

AN ACT OF HOPE

O my God! Relying on Thy infinite goodness and promises, I hope to obtain pardon of my sins, the help of Thy grace, and life everlasting, through the merits of Jesus Christ, my Lord and Redeemer.

AN ACT OF CHARITY

O my God! I love Thee above all things, with my whole heart and soul, because Thou art all good and worthy of all love. I love my neighbor as myself for the love of Thee. I forgive all who have injured me, and ask pardon of all whom I have injured.

PRAYERS

When I kneel down my prayers to say,
 I must not think of toys or play;
 No! I must think of what I should be,
 To please God who is good to me.

He loves to see a little child
 Obedient—patient, too—and mild;
 Nor often angry, but inclined
 Always to do what's good and kind.

And I must love my dear mamma,
 And I must love my dear papa;
 And try to please them, and to do
 Things that are right, and say what's true.

For God is always pleased to see
 Even little children such as we,
 Whose hearts (as angels' are above)
 Are full of peace and full of love.

—*Lady Flora Hastings*

QUESTIONS

*Were our First Parents happy when God
 created them?*

What made them happy?

What was the first sin that Eve committed?

Who tempted her to commit it?

What form did the tempter take?

*When Eve disbelieved God, what happened to
 her?*

What other sins did her first sin lead to?

When bad children tell one lie, do they usually commit other sins?

Why did Adam disobey God?

Will a true friend ever ask us to do what is displeasing to God or to our parents?

Should any one associate with people who disobey God?

What will happen to us if we go with bad companions?

What happened to the children of Seth when they associated with the wicked children of Cain?

How did God keep the promise which He made to Adam and Eve?

How do we know what God wants us to believe and what He wants us to do?

What virtues did Our Saviour give back to us?

How can we make these virtues grow stronger in our souls?

Say the Acts of Faith, Hope and Charity.

THE ARK

If but the world would give to Love
The crumbs that from its table fall,
'Twere bounty large enough for all
The famishing to feed thereof.

And Love, that still the laurel wins
Of Sacrifice, would lovelier grow,
And round the world a mantle throw
To hide its multitude of sins.

—*Father Tabb*

God loved Noe because he was a good man who believed in Him and trusted in His promise to send a Redeemer. Noe loved God with all his heart and obeyed Him in all things. He loved his neighbors also and helped them whenever he could.

One day God said to Noe: All the people have given themselves up to the evil desires of their hearts, and they are so wicked that I am sorry I made them. I will bring a great flood upon the earth and every one shall be drowned and every living thing upon the earth shall be destroyed; but, because you have been faithful to me and have loved and obeyed me, your hope shall not be in vain, for I will save you and your family.

So that you and your family may be saved from the flood which I will bring upon the whole earth, build an ark of timber planks, according to the directions which I shall give you. Make it three hundred cubits long, fifty cubits wide, and thirty cubits high. Let there be three stories in it, divided up into little rooms. Put a window in it, one cubit high, and make a door in the middle of one of its sides.



BUILDING THE ARK—*Raphael*

When you have finished making the ark, cover it outside and inside with pitch, so that it will keep out the water. Store away in the ark plenty of food of all kinds, that you and your family and all the animals may have enough to eat for a long time.

Noe and his sons, Sem, Cham and Japheth, set to work at once. It took them many years to build the ark, for they had no machines in those days such as we have now. When at last they had done everything just as they had been told to do, God said to Noe:

After seven days I will bring the flood upon the earth. Go into the ark and take with you all your family. Your neighbors, who have refused to believe in the punishment to come and who have laughed at you for believing in me, are not worthy to be saved. Take with you into the ark two of every sort of animal and bird and creeping thing, so that they may live and continue their kind upon the earth.

Noe did all that the Lord commanded, and when the last of the animals were brought into the ark, God shut the great door from the outside.

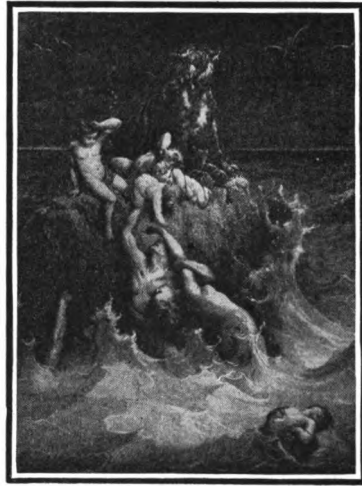
O God, keep back the floods of sin
That rise above me like a sea,
For only Thou canst them control.
A fragile vessel is my soul,
And passions mutiny within;
All art of sailing is with Thee.

—*Charles L. O'Donnell, C. S. C.*

THE FLOOD

After Noe and his family were safely in the ark and the door was closed, God opened the flood-gates of heaven. The rain fell upon the earth in torrents for forty days and forty nights and the water covered all the land. The waters of the sea

rolled in over the land in great waves. The flood rose higher and higher, until the water was more than fifteen cubits deep over the top of the highest mountains, and all the people and all the animals and birds and creeping things were drowned, except those that God saved in the ark.



THE DELUGE—Doré

After this, God began to prepare the earth for Noe and for all the living things that were with him in the ark. He closed up the flood-gates of heaven and stopped the rain. Then He brought a great wind upon the earth that made the waters roll back slowly into the sea. The waters were lowered over the whole face of the earth, and after one hundred and fifty days the ark rested on the top of Mount Ararat in Armenia.

After forty days more had passed, Noe opened the window of the ark a little way and sent out a raven, but the bird did not return. Then he sent

a dove after the raven, but she did not find a place to rest her foot, and returned to the ark, and Noe put out his hand and took her in; and so he knew that the water was still upon the whole earth.

When seven more days had passed, Noe sent the dove out of the ark again. In the evening she came back to him, carrying in her bill a little branch



LEAVING THE ARK—*Raphael*

of an olive tree with green leaves on it. This was a sign to Noe that the waters had left the face of the earth.

Noe stayed in the ark seven days longer, and then sent out the dove; but this time she did not come back to him, so he opened the ark and saw that the land was dried. Then God said to him: Come out of the ark, thou and thy wife and thy sons, and the wives of thy sons with thee, and bring out all the living things that are in the ark that they may increase and multiply upon the earth.

THE RAINBOW

Seashell, whence the rainbow dyes,
Flashing in thy sunset skies?
Thou wast in the penal brine;
When appeared the saving sign.
Yea; but when the bow was bended,
Hope, that hung it in the sky,
Down into the deep descended
Where the starless shadows lie;
And with tender touch of glory,
Traced in living lines of love,
On my lowly walls, the story
Written in the heavens above.

—*Father Tabb*

After Noe and his family and all the animals had come out of the ark, Noe offered sacrifice to God. God blessed Noe and his sons and said to them: Increase and multiply and fill the earth; and the fear of you shall be upon all the beasts of the earth and upon all the fowls of the air and upon all that move upon the earth. I give you all the fishes of the sea, and every living thing that moveth shall be meat for you. I have given them to you, just as I have given you the plants and green herbs.

Behold, I will establish my covenant with you and with your children and with your children's children and with every living soul that is with you. I promise you that all flesh shall no more

be destroyed with the waters of a flood, and neither shall there ever be another flood to waste the earth.

This is the sign of the covenant which I will give between me and you and to every living soul that is with you forever. I will set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be the sign of an agreement between me and the earth. And when I shall cover the sky with clouds, my bow shall appear in the clouds, and I will remember my covenant with you and with every living soul.

When you shall see the rainbow in the heavens you shall remember my promise and shall know that there shall be no more waters of a flood to destroy all flesh. The bow shall be in the clouds, and I shall see it and remember the everlasting covenant that was made between me and every living soul upon the earth.

THOUGHTS FOR US

A cubit was a measure used long ago in the same way that we now use a foot rule. It is the length of a man's arm from the elbow to the tip of the middle finger; that is, about one foot and a half long. The ark was, therefore, a very big boat, and it seemed much larger in those days, when men built only little boats.

To build a boat of this kind where there was no water seemed very foolish to Noe's neighbors. They wanted him to tell them what he was to do with it and how he was going to carry it down to the water. When Noe told them what God had said about the flood that was to come upon the earth, they laughed at him. During all the years that Noe and his sons were building the ark their neighbors only made fun of them.

In spite of what all these people said, Noe never doubted God's words. He had told him that there would be a great flood that would cover the whole earth, and Noe believed Him. He had commanded him to build the ark, and Noe obeyed Him. Noe and his sons labored a hundred years in building the ark, in which they were saved, while all those who doubted God's word were drowned.

Jesus Christ also built an ark, in which those who believe in Him and obey Him will be saved. This ark is the Catholic Church. All men are told that they may come into the Church, if they wish to be saved. How thankful we ought to be to Our Saviour for having founded the Church. How glad we are that we are in the Church.

QUESTIONS

Why did God bring a flood upon the earth?

Why did he save Noe and his family?

Was it hard for Adam to believe that if he ate the forbidden fruit he would die?

Was it easy for Noe to believe what God said to him?

Was it easier for Noe to obey God than it was for Adam?

What virtues did Noe have?

When you see the rainbow in the sky, what does it remind you of?

How does Jesus Christ wish us to be saved?

Why is the Church like the ark?

What did Noe do that pleased God?

How can we please God?

THE CALL OF ABRAHAM

VOCATION

God is calling, calling, morn and noon,
All the night is ringing with His cry;
“Go forth,” He says, “from sin and pleasure, soon
Shall come the day when thou shalt surely die.

“Choose here the little pain that shortly ceases
When death shall lead thy weary feet away;
For know the joy of future heaven increases
Unto the shining of a perfect day.”

—*Charles L. O'Donnell, C. S. C.*

After the flood the descendants of Noe became very numerous. They spread over the whole country and grew up into many nations, and they built great cities.

Hundreds and hundreds of years passed and most of the people forgot God. They trusted in their riches and relied upon their own strength. They lost their faith in the truths which God had made known to their fathers, and they ceased to obey God's laws.

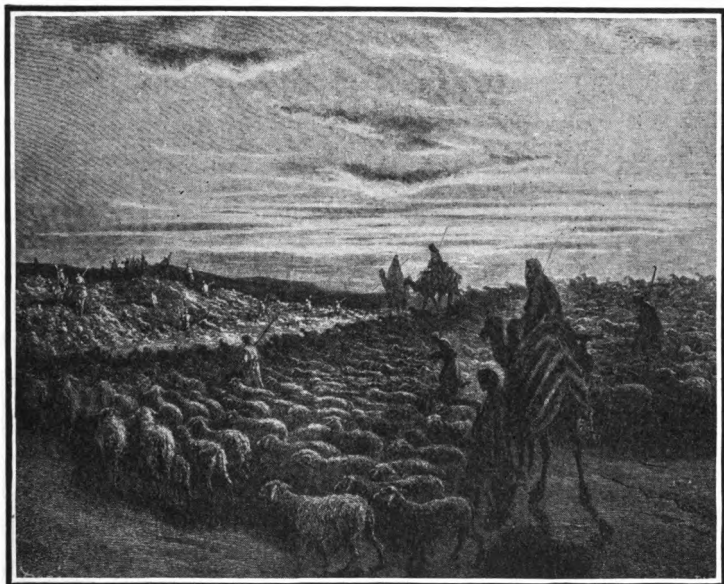
Now, in Ur of Chaldea, a city near Babylon, there lived a good man who believed in God and obeyed His laws. This man's name was Abram. God wished to keep Abram from losing his faith,

and so He did not want him to associate any longer with the wicked people of Ur.

One day God called Abram and said to him: Go forth out of thy country and from among thy people. Leave thy father's house and come unto the land which I will show thee; and I will bless thee and will make of thy children a great nation, and in thee all the peoples of the earth shall be blessed. In these words God promised Abram that the Redeemer of the world would be among his descendants.

Abram believed all God had said to him and trusted Him in everything. He obeyed God at once. Leaving his home and all his friends, he took with him Sarai, his wife, Lot, his nephew, and all his servants, and everything he owned.

Abram traveled a long, long way, following the directions which God had given him. Having spent many weeks in crossing the desert, he came at last to the land of Chanaan. Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said: To thee and to thy children I will give this land. Abram camped on that spot, built an altar to the Lord, and offered sacrifice upon it, as a sign of his gratitude and obedience to Him.



ABRAM JOURNEYING TO THE LAND OF CHANAAN—*Doré*

Abram and Lot dwelt there for a long time, and they became very rich in gold and silver and in their herds and flocks, which were multiplied beyond number. There was no longer grass enough in one place to feed all the cattle, so Abram and Lot parted from each other, and Lot took his cattle and went down into the valley of the Jordan and dwelt there.

All the people of Chanaan feared and respected Abram, for he was a great man in the land. He

was good to his neighbors, and helped them in war and whenever they needed him. He was generous, and when he helped the needy he accepted no pay. God was pleased with Abram and said to him:

Fear not, Abram, I am thy protector and thy reward. But Abram answered: My Lord, what good is a reward to me, for I have no children, and when I die all I have will belong to my servants. But the Lord said to him: No; thy servants shall not inherit thy property, but thine own son shall have it.

That night God called Abram out of his tent and said to him: Look up to heaven and count the stars, if you can. Now, your children shall be as numerous as those

stars. Though Abram was an old man and had no son, he believed God's promise without doubting, and in gratitude he offered a sacrifice to Him the next morning.

The next night in his



ABRAM COUNTING THE
STARS—*Raphael*

sleep Abram heard a voice, saying: Know, thou, that thy children shall be strangers in a land not their own, and they shall be brought into slavery and treated cruelly for many years by the people of that land. I shall punish that nation for treating thy children cruelly, and shall bring thy children out of the land of bondage with great wealth. But thou, thyself, shalt live to an old age and die in peace in this land.

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him again and said: I am Almighty God. Walk thou before me and be perfect, and I will make my covenant between me and thee, and I will multiply thy children exceedingly. Thou shalt be the father of many nations. Thy name shall be changed to Abraham, which means the father of nations, and thy wife's name shall be changed to Sarah, which means princess. I will bless thee and thy wife, and will give thee a son, whom I will bless, and he shall be the father of nations, and kings shall be among his children.

Abraham fell on his face and said: Shall a son be born to me when I am a hundred years old, and shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, be a mother?

But God answered: I will give thee and thy wife a son and thou shalt call his name Isaac, and I will establish my covenant with him and with his children after him, and in his seed the whole earth shall be blessed.

THE SEED

Bearing a life unseen,
Thou lingerest between
A flower withdrawn,
And—what thou ne'er shalt see—
A blossom yet to be
When thou art gone.

—*Father Tabb*

THOUGHTS FOR US

Hundreds of years after Abraham died God called the Magi from the country where Abraham was born. They believed God and followed the star across the desert, over the same road that Abraham had traveled in coming into Chanaan. In Bethlehem they adored the Redeemer whom God had promised would spring from the seed of Abraham, for King David and Our Saviour were among the descendants of Abraham.

At the present time God often calls men and women from their homes and families, and asks

them to serve Him in special ways. Sometimes men are called to be priests or brothers, and women are called to be sisters; then they must leave their homes and their fathers and mothers and go wherever they are sent. Sometimes God sends them into distant countries to teach the people of those far away lands about Our Saviour and to help them to live in such a way that they may go to Heaven when they die.

If we believe in God and always trust and obey Him as Abraham and the Wise Men did, He will bless us and make us happy. Whatever we ask of God in prayer He will give to us, if it is for our good, but we must be patient and wait; it is not always best for us that our prayer be granted at once. God promised Abraham and Sarah a son, but they were very old before He fulfilled His promise. He promised him that the Redeemer would be among his descendants, but it was a thousand years before Jesus was born.

QUESTIONS

Where is Ur of Chaldea? Can you find the place on the map?

Why was God so pleased with Abraham?

What did God promise him?

What virtues did Abraham have?

*Was Abraham thankful to God for having called
him out of his home and sent him into a strange
land?*

*Would you be thankful to God if He should call
you to be a priest, a brother, or a sister?*

THE POWER OF GOD

Thou art, O God! the life and light
Of all this wondrous world we see;
Its glow by day, its smile by night,
Are but reflections caught from Thee.
Where'er we turn, Thy glories shine,
And all things fair and bright are Thine.

When day, with farewell beams delays
Among the opening clouds of even,
And we can almost think we gaze
Through golden vistas into Heaven;
Those lines that make the sun's decline
So soft, so radiant, Lord! are Thine.

When youthful spring around us breathes,
Thy spirit warms her fragrant sigh;
And every flower the summer wreathes
Is born beneath that kindling Eye.
Where'er we turn, Thy glories shine,
And all things fair and bright are Thine.

—*Thomas Moore*

JOSEPH IS BETRAYED BY HIS BROTHERS

Joseph and his eleven brothers were great-grandchildren of Abraham. Their father was the son of Isaac. His name was Jacob, but he was often called Israel.

Joseph was his father's pet, and for this reason his older brothers were jealous of him. They disliked him still more because he was in the habit of telling them his dreams, in which he usually saw himself as the superior of his brothers. One day he said to them: Last night I dreamed that we were binding sheaves in the field and my sheaf arose and stood, and your sheaves, standing about, bowed down before my sheaf.

This made his brothers very angry, and they said: Do you think you are going to be our king and that we are going to bow down and obey you? A short time after this, Joseph had another dream, which he also told to his father and his brothers. Last night I saw in my dream the sun and the moon and eleven stars worshipping me. His father rebuked him for telling this dream. What do you

mean, Joseph, by telling us this dream? Do you want me and your mother and your brothers to worship you while you are still on earth. His brothers were very angry and sought for an opportunity to punish him, but his father often thought about the dream and wondered what it might mean.

Jacob kept Joseph with him and sent his other sons to take care of his flocks. One day, when the flocks were feeding a long way from home, Jacob said to Joseph: Go where your brothers are tending the flocks and see how they are getting along, and come back and tell me what they are doing.

Joseph traveled a long way through the wilderness, and at last came in sight of his brothers. When they saw him, they said: See! the dreamer comes. Let us kill him and tell his father that a wild beast hath devoured him.

Ruben, the oldest of the brothers, wished to save Joseph, so he said: Do not take away the boy's life. Let us cast him into this old well and not be guilty of killing our brother. Now, Ruben intended, when the others would have gone away, to come back and take the boy out of the well and send him home to his father.

As soon as Joseph came to where his brothers were, they laid hold of him and tore off his beautiful coat of many colors which his father had given him. Joseph was frightened and begged his brothers to let him go and not to kill him, but they would not listen to him. They threw him down in the well, and left him there to die of hunger and thirst.

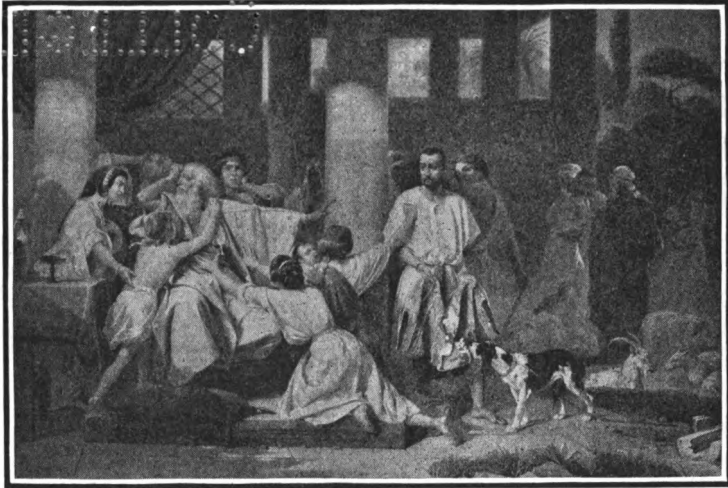
While they were eating their dinner they saw men coming riding on camels, who were on their way to Egypt. Juda, one of the brothers, said: Let us take Joseph out of the well and sell him as a slave



JOSEPH SOLD—*Raphael*

to these men, and then we will not be guilty of taking his life. The brothers all agreed to this; so they sold their brother into slavery for twenty pieces of silver.

After the travelers had departed, the brothers took Joseph's coat, and, sprinkling it with the blood of a kid, they sent it to their father. They told the shepherds, by whom they sent the coat, to say to



THE DESPAIR OF JACOB—*Schopin*

Jacob: We have found this coat in the wilderness and have brought it to you to see if it is your son's. When Jacob saw the coat he was heartbroken, and said: It is my son's coat. A wild beast hath devoured my son Joseph. Then he put on sack-cloth and mourned his son for a long time.

THOUGHTS FOR US

In Joseph's dreams God showed him what was going to happen in the future. None of Joseph's family understood what the dreams meant at the time, but years afterward the dreams came true,

and they knew that God was directing all things for their good.

God often revealed the future through men called prophets. He revealed to them the time and place of Our Saviour's birth and the way in which He would die.

God is able to bring good out of everything, even out of our wicked deeds. It was very wrong of Joseph's brothers to sell him into slavery, but God made this the means of saving them from starvation in years to come. This reminds us of the way that Jesus, by His suffering and death, saves us from the death which we deserve for our sins.

The wickedness of Joseph's brothers reminds us of the way Judas sold Our Saviour to the High Priest for thirty pieces of silver.

QUESTIONS

Why did Joseph's brothers hate him?

Which of the wicked imps prompted them to sell him into slavery?

Which one of his brothers saved Joseph from death in the old well?

What good did Joseph's dreams do?

How did Joseph's brothers know that God was directing all things?

What are some of the things that God revealed to the prophets?

What does the story of Joseph remind us of?

JOSEPH IS REWARDED FOR HIS FAITHFULNESS

And we know that to them that love God all things work together unto good. (Romans VIII, 28.)

When the merchants reached Egypt they sold Joseph to Putiphar, the general of the king's army. Joseph was a good boy. He believed in God; he loved Him with all his heart, and obeyed Him in all things. God rewarded him by making him succeed in everything he was sent to do.

Putiphar soon grew to love the boy. He saw that God blessed him in everything he did, so he gave him charge over all the other servants and over his household.

Now, Putiphar's wife was a wicked woman, and

she tried to make Joseph disobey God and betray his master, but Joseph refused to do this. One day she became very angry with him and told lies to her husband about him. She said that he was not faithful to the trust which his master placed in him.

Putiphar was very angry when he heard that Joseph, whom he loved and trusted, was disobedient and unfaithful. He cast Joseph into prison, where he remained for many years. But Joseph, who did not lose faith in God when his brothers sold him into slavery, remained faithful to Him now in prison. When the keeper of the prison saw that Joseph feared and obeyed God, he was very kind to him and placed him over all the other prisoners.

God rewarded Joseph for his faithfulness by giving him wisdom and enabling him to interpret the dreams of others. Now, one night, Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, had a dream which frightened him very much, and he could find no one able to explain it to him. Then one of his servants told him that there was a young man in prison named Joseph to whom God told the meaning of dreams.

Pharao ordered Joseph to be brought to him at once. When Joseph came in and stood before the throne, Pharao said to him: Last night I had two dreams, and there is no one who can explain them to me. I have sent for you because I have heard that you are very wise in explaining dreams.

Joseph did not wish to take the credit to himself for the wisdom which God had given him, and so he said to Pharao: Without me God will give Pharao the right explanation of his dreams.

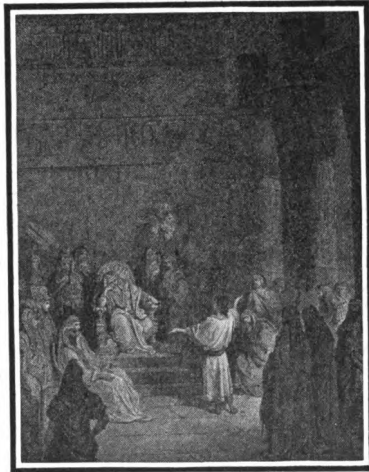
Then Pharao said: I dreamed that I stood upon the bank of the river and saw seven cows come up out of the water. These cows were fat and very beautiful, and they grazed on the rich grass of the green pastures. After this, seven other cows came up out of the water, and these were lean and ugly. They grazed right on the bank of the river and then they ate up the seven beautiful cows, and after they had finished eating them they were as hungry and as thin as before.

Then I woke up and fell asleep and dreamed that seven ears of corn grew upon one stalk, and they were full and beautiful. And seven other ears grew on the same stalk and they were thin and withered and they devoured the beautiful ears.

I told these dreams to all the wise men in the kingdom, but none of them could explain them to me.

Now, God showed Joseph the meaning of Pharaoh's dreams. Joseph then said to the king: Both of your dreams have the same meaning. In

them God is showing you what is going to happen in Egypt. The seven fat cows and the seven full ears have the same meaning; which is, that the next seven years will be years of plenty. And the seven lean cows and the seven withered ears have the same meaning; that is, that the years of plenty



JOSEPH EXPLAINING PHARAO'S
DREAM—*Doré*

shall be followed by seven years of famine, in which there will be no grass for the cattle, and in which the corn will be withered by the burning winds from the south.

Now, God has shown Pharaoh what is going to happen so that he may save his people from starva-

tion during the years of famine. Therefore, let the king provide a wise and industrious man and make him ruler over the whole land of Egypt. Let him appoint overseers over all the country, who will gather into barns the fifth part of all the grain that is harvested during the seven fruitful years. Let all this grain be kept until the people shall need it, and then let the king order it to be distributed to them.

Pharao was much pleased with Joseph's explanation of his dream, and he said to his counsellors: Where can we find another man who is so full of wisdom and of the spirit of God as Joseph? Then he turned to Joseph and said: Since God has shown you the meaning of my dreams, no one else is so fit to rule over the land of Egypt as you are. I shall place you over all my household, and all the people shall obey you, and only I, as king on the throne of Egypt, shall be above you.

Pharao took the ring from his own hand and placed it on Joseph's finger. He put on him a robe of silk and hung a gold chain about his neck, and made him go up into his second best chariot. He sent a servant to cry out in the streets and tell all

the people that they should bend the knee before Joseph, because he was made governor over the whole land of Egypt.

Then Pharaoh turned to Joseph once more and said: Without thy command no man shall henceforth move hand or foot in all the land of Egypt, and thy name shall be Zaph-nah-paa-neah, which means Saviour of the world.

THOUGHTS FOR US

If we love God and obey His commandments, no one can really injure us, because God will protect us and make all the wicked deeds that are done against us turn to our good. Joseph's brothers tried to injure him, and Putiphar's wife tried to injure him, but God made these things the means of placing Joseph in the highest position in the country next to the king.

Joseph continued to believe in God during many years while God seemed to have deserted him. God allowed him to be sold as a slave; He allowed him to be kept in prison for a long time, but He blessed him always, because of his faith and obedience.

Joseph was a prophet, and God showed him what was going to happen in Egypt, and all the people

were to be saved through him. In Joseph's life God showed the people how His only begotten Son Jesus would be hated and persecuted and put to death, and how He would be raised from the dead and made the means of saving all the world from sin and eternal death.

QUESTIONS

Why did Putiphar like Joseph?

Why did he give him charge of his household?

Why did Putiphar become angry with Joseph and put him in prison?

How did Joseph behave after he was thrown into prison?

Who was Pharaoh?

Why did he send for Joseph?

What were Pharaoh's dreams?

What did they mean?

What did Joseph advise Pharaoh to do?

What did Pharaoh say to Joseph?

What honors did he confer on him?

What name did he give him?

What does this part of Joseph's life remind us of?

JOSEPH RETURNS GOOD FOR EVIL

During the seven years of plenty Joseph had great storehouses built in all the cities of Egypt. When the famine came all these storehouses were filled to overflowing with grain and provisions of all kinds. During the years of famine the hot winds burned up all the grain, and the people came to Pharaoh crying for food. But he said to them: Go to Joseph and do whatever he shall say to you.

After a time the people from the countries round about began to come down to Egypt to buy grain, for there was a great famine in the whole world. Joseph's father and his brothers were also suffering from the famine, and they did not know where to go to buy food.

One day Israel said to his sons: I have heard that wheat is sold in Egypt. Go ye down and buy food that we may not all starve. Let Benjamin remain at home with me.

And thus it came to pass that Joseph's brothers, who had sold him into slavery, came to Egypt to buy food. But when they went to the market places they were informed that no one could buy

provisions in Egypt without an order from the governor. They did not know who was governor. They did not recognize him even when they saw him in his office, for it was more than twenty years since they had sold him to the merchants, and he was then a little boy.

But Joseph knew his brothers at once. He loved them still, and in his heart he forgave them for all their cruelty to him. But before making himself known to his brothers, he wished to excite in their hearts true contrition for their wicked deed, so that God might forgive them for their sin.

When his brothers bowed down before him and begged him to sell them food he pretended not to know them nor to understand their language. He spoke to them in the Egyptian tongue, and one of his servants told them in their own language what he said. He asked them who they were and what they came to Egypt for. He pretended not to believe them and called them spies. He said to them: You shall not leave here until you prove the truth of what you say. And he ordered his soldiers to put them in prison.

Now, on the third day, Joseph brought his brothers out of prison and said to them: Do as I

say and you shall live, for I fear and obey God. If you have told me the truth, let one of you be kept in prison here and let the other nine go home and take the grain which you have bought with you. Bring back your youngest brother to me, and then I shall release your other brother and permit you to depart in safety.

Upon hearing this, the brothers began to talk among themselves in their own language, which they thought Joseph could not understand. They said one to another: We deserve to suffer these things, because we have sinned against our brother Joseph. We saw his suffering and would not listen to him when he begged us to let him go. And Ruben said: Did I not tell you not to sin against the boy? You would not listen to me, and now God is punishing us for our sin.

As Joseph heard them talk he was glad, for he knew that they were beginning to be sorry for their sin. He took Simeon and locked him up in jail. Then he ordered the servants to fill the sacks of the other brothers with grain and put each man's money in the mouth of his sack, and to give them provisions for their journey.

When Joseph's brothers reached home they were

astonished to find their money in the mouths of their sacks, and they told their father all that had been said and done. They wanted to go back to Egypt at once and take Benjamin with them, as they had promised the governor to do, but Israel would not let Benjamin go out of his sight for fear something might happen to him.

THOUGHTS FOR US

We should learn from the conduct of Joseph to lay up treasures in times of plenty, so that we may not suffer in time of want. Above all things, we should lay up treasures for ourselves in Heaven by our good deeds, so that in the day of temptation and trial we may be preserved from sin.

Each one of us should forgive our brothers from our hearts for all their offences against us, but God will not forgive them until they are sorry for their sins. When we have sinned it is often necessary that God should send us punishment to make us sorry for our sins, so that we may be forgiven. We see, therefore, that it is not cruelty, but love for us, that makes God punish us. It is sometimes a duty for our parents and our teachers to punish

us when we do wrong, so that we may be sorry for our wrongdoing.

QUESTIONS

What did Joseph do during the seven years of plenty?

How did he save the people from starvation?

Did he help others besides the Egyptians?

When Joseph recognized his brothers, why did he not tell them who he was?

Why did he put them in prison?

What did he hear them saying?

Why did Joseph want to frighten his brothers?

Did he love them?

Why did Israel refuse to let them take Benjamin to Egypt?

JOSEPH SAVES HIS BROTHERS

After the food that had been bought in Egypt was eaten up, Israel and his sons saw that they must die of starvation unless they could buy more wheat; but Joseph's brothers did not dare return to Egypt without Benjamin, and food was to be found nowhere else.

At last Israel told his sons to take Benjamin with them, and also take presents for the governor, and go down into Egypt and buy grain. He prayed to Almighty God to make the governor favorable to them, so he would send his sons back to him.

The sons of Israel did as their father told them to do, but they were afraid, nevertheless, that the governor would keep them in Egypt and make slaves of them. When they reached Egypt, they went with fear and trembling to the governor's house, but he received them kindly and asked them about their father.

When Joseph saw his youngest brother, Benjamin, he asked: Is this your youngest brother, of whom you told me? And he put his hand on Benjamin's shoulder and said: May God be gracious

to you, my son. And turning away quickly, he went into another room, for his eyes were full of tears, which he did not want any one to see.

Joseph made a feast for his brothers, and after the dinner was over he said to the steward: Fill the sacks of these men with wheat and put each one's money in the mouth of his own sack, and in the mouth of Benjamin's sack put my silver cup.

In the morning the brothers took leave of the governor and went away happy. When they had gone a little distance from the city, Joseph sent the steward with a company of soldiers after his brothers. He told the steward to arrest them and say to them: Why have you returned evil for good? You have stolen my master's cup, out of which he drinks, and in which he sees the meaning of dreams.

The brothers were all very much surprised and said they were innocent of this wicked deed. They said they had not stolen anything out of the governor's house, and asked the steward to search them. And they said on whomsoever you shall find the cup, let him die, and the rest of us will be the governor's slaves.

Then the steward searched each of the brothers, and when he came to Benjamin's sack he found

the cup. The brothers were all very much frightened, and going back again into the city to the governor's house, fell down on their faces before him.

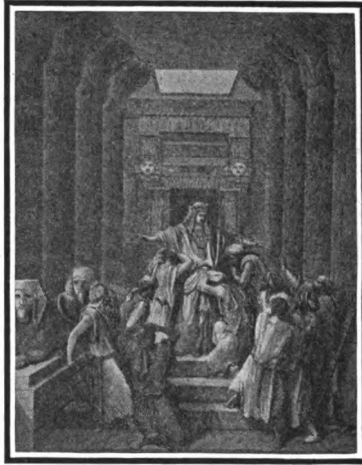
Joseph said to them: Why did you do this evil thing? Do you not know that God enables me to read the secret thoughts of your hearts? The brothers thought that God was punishing them for having betrayed their brother and sold him into slavery, and great fear came upon them.

At last Juda said: What shall we answer, my lord? God has found out our sin. We are all thy slaves, both we and he on whom the cup was found. But Joseph said: God forbid that I should do so. He that stole the cup shall remain as my slave, and the rest of you shall go home to your father.

Then Juda said: May it please your gracious majesty to take me for thy slave and let Benjamin return to his father, for his father loves him tenderly, and he would die of a broken heart if Benjamin did not return to him. I cannot return home and see my father suffer for the loss of the boy whom he loves.

Joseph could no longer keep back his tears; he was so glad at the sight of the true contrition which

his brothers had for their sin. And he was also glad to see that Juda was willing to give his life for his brother, so as to save his father from grief. Joseph ordered the servants to leave the room, and then he said to his brothers in their own language: I am your brother Joseph.



JOSEPH AND HIS BROTHERS
—Doré

Tell me, is my father yet living?

His brothers were so frightened that they could not say a word. Joseph asked them to come closer and look into his eyes and see that they were the eyes of his mother. He said: I am, indeed, Joseph, your brother, whom you sold as a slave into Egypt, but do not be afraid. I bear you no ill will. It was God who sent me here before you that I might be able to save you from starvation.

Make haste and go up to my father and say to him: Thus sayeth thy son Joseph. God hath made me governor of the whole land of Egypt. Come

down to me and do not delay. Thou shalt dwell in the land of Gessen and be near me; thou and thy sons and thy son's sons and thy sheep and herds and all that thou hast. And I will feed thee and all thy flocks. Tell my father all my glory and all the things you have seen in Egypt, and make haste and bring him to me.

When Pharaoh heard about Joseph's brothers, he sent for Joseph and said to him: Bring your father and all your kindred to me and I will give them plenty of all the good things in Egypt. And send wagons up out of Egypt to carry down your father and the women and children.

When Israel's sons came back to him and told him the good news, he could scarcely believe them. But when he saw the teams and the great wagons from Egypt, he doubted their word no longer, but said to them: It is enough for me that my son Joseph is living. I will go down to Egypt and see him before I die.

Then he offered sacrifice to God, and God revealed to him what was going to happen to his children in the years to come, and directed him to go down into Egypt as Joseph had ordered.

Joseph made ready his chariot and went up to



JOSEPH WELCOMES HIS FATHER—*Schopin*

meet his father at Gessen, and when he saw him he embraced him and wept. And the old man said to Joseph: Now I shall die with joy, because I have seen thy face and leave thee alive.

THOUGHTS FOR US

For twenty years Joseph's brothers suffered because of the sin they committed in selling their brother. When at last God saw that they had suffered sufficiently, He forgave them and showed them how their wicked intention had failed to harm their brother.

It was Juda who asked his brothers to take

Joseph out of the well, so as not to be guilty of his death. And at the last, it was Juda who offered to bear the suffering and toil of a slave, in order that his brother might be free, and that his father should be saved from suffering.

King David and Our Saviour were descendants of Juda. Juda's generous conduct reminds us of how Our Saviour took upon himself all the sufferings which we deserve for our sins, so that we might be freed and that satisfaction be made to God for our sins.

Joseph could not keep back the tears of joy at the sight of the contrition of his brothers for their sin, and Our Saviour tells us that there shall be joy like this among the angels every time a sinner is sorry for his sins and returns to God.

How happy Israel and all his sons were at last when sin had been taken away and love united all the members of the family once more. How happy we shall all be when we are united with Jesus and Our Heavenly Father.

QUESTIONS

Why were Joseph's brothers afraid when they recognized him?

Which was the noblest of Joseph's brothers?

Which one of them was the forefather of Our Saviour?

What does his conduct remind us of?

What did Pharaoh do when he heard that Joseph's father was living?

What did Israel do when his sons told him that Joseph was governor of Egypt?

What did God reveal to him?

What did he say when Joseph met him at Gessen?

JESUS FOUNDS HIS CHURCH

OUR BROTHER

He is our brother, bone of our bone,
A heaven-sprung Joseph, He;
Flesh of our flesh, He is God's true Son
And born of virginity.

Hail Mary, Hail Mary, Blest Mother of the Word,
Help us like thee to keep what we have heard.

—*Charles L. O'Donnell, C. S. C.*

The Children of Israel lived in Egypt a long time and grew to be very numerous. The Egyptians were afraid they would grow too strong, and so they made them slaves, beat them with whips, and treated them very cruelly. Then God sent Moses to save them from their sufferings, and to lead them into the land which He had promised to Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and to their children forever.

God wrote the Ten Commandments on two tables of stone, which He gave to Moses on Mount Sinai, so all the people might know and obey God's law. For more than a thousand years after this God sent prophets and holy men to teach the people to walk in the ways of the Lord and to prepare them for the coming of the Redeemer.

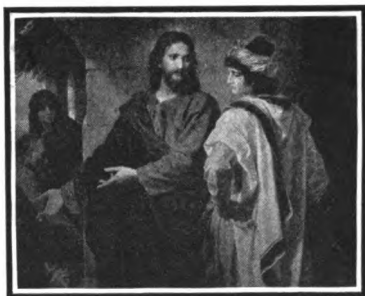


MOSES GIVES THE LAW TO THE
PEOPLE—*Raphael*

But many of the people became very wicked and thought only of riches, of beautiful houses and fine clothes, and when the Redeemer came they did not know Him. Jesus worked many miracles to prove to them that He was the

Son of God. He explained the prophecies and showed the people that He was the Redeemer whom God had so long promised to send into the world.

When the people still doubted that Jesus was the Redeemer, He gave this proof, so that every one in the world might know that He was the Son of God. He told the people that He would be crucified; that He would die and be buried, and on the third day He would rise again from the dead. And all this happened just as He said it would.



CHRIST AND THE RICH YOUNG
MAN—*Hofmann.*

Forty days after Our Lord rose from the dead He ascended into Heaven and sitteth at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. But before Our Lord left this world He founded the Holy Catholic Church, in which all who believe in God and obey Him will be saved. Our Lord came into the world to teach us the things we should know about His Father and about Heaven, and to tell us what we must do, so that we may be saved and go to Heaven when we die.

In founding His Church, the first thing Jesus did was to choose twelve men to be His special friends and pupils. He called these men Apostles, because He was going to send them to teach all men the way to Heaven. The Apostles remained with Jesus during the last three years He was on earth. They saw all His miracles and listened to Him every day while He preached to the people. He explained to them more fully than to the rest of the people the meaning of everything He taught. He told them that after He should leave them they would continue His work. He told them that, as they had heretofore been fishermen, hereafter they should be fishers of men.

Only those who were in the ark with Noe before



CHRIST AND THE FISHERMEN—*Zimmerman.*

the flood began were saved, but St. Peter and the other Apostles and their successors were to rescue men from the flood of sin at all times and bring them into the Church, which was the ark that Our Saviour made to save men to the end of time.

Our Saviour gave His authority to His Apostles and their successors. He said to them: *He that heareth you heareth me, and he that despiseth you despiseth me; and he that despiseth me despiseth Him that sent me.* One day after Our Lord had

worked many miracles to prove to the people that He was the Redeemer whom God had sent into the world, He warned them against believing false doctrines, and reminded them of the miracles which He wrought in multiplying the loaves and fishes. Then He turned to His Apostles and asked them: Whom do men say that I am?

The Apostles answered: Some say that you are John the Baptist; others say that you are Elias, and others that you are Jeremias or one of the prophets.

Then Jesus said to them: *But whom do you say that I am? And Simon, one of the twelve Apostles, answered: Thou art Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus said to him: Blessed art thou Simon, son of John, because flesh and blood hath not revealed it to you, but My Father, who is in Heaven. And I say to thee, thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of hell shall not prevail against her. And I will give to thee the keys of the kingdom of Heaven, and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth, it shall be bound also in Heaven, and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth, it shall be loosed also in Heaven.*

By these words Our Lord changed Simon's name to Peter, which means a rock, and He made him the head of His church on earth. Peter was the first Pope, and the other Apostles were the first bishops of the Catholic Church.

II

After Jesus rose from the dead He appeared to His Apostles many times, and taught them what they were to do after He should have ascended into Heaven. The third time Jesus appeared to His Apostles He broke bread with them, and then He turned to Simon Peter and said:

Simon, son of John, lovest thou me more than these? And Peter answered: Yea, Lord, thou knowest that I love thee. And Jesus said to him: Feed my lambs.

Then He asked him again: Simon, son of John, lovest thou me? And Peter answered: Yea, Lord, thou knowest that I love thee. And Jesus said: Feed my lambs.

And Jesus said to him a third time: Simon, son of John, lovest thou me? Now, Peter was grieved because he thought that Jesus doubted his love for

Him, and he said: *Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Then Jesus said: Feed my sheep.*

Our Saviour was the good shepherd who laid down His life for His sheep. By these words He made Peter and His successors our shepherds in His place. They are appointed to watch over us and guide us in the way we must walk.

Forty days after His resurrection the Apostles met Jesus on Mount Olivet, as He had told them to do. And when they came to the place appointed and saw Jesus, they fell on their knees and adored Him, and Jesus said to them: *All power is given unto me in Heaven and on earth. Going, therefore, teach ye all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and behold, I am with you all days, even to the end of the world. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, and he that believeth not shall be condemned.*

After Jesus had spoken these words He ascended into Heaven and the Apostles returned to Jerusalem to the house where the Blessed Virgin and a



THE ASCENSION—*Doré*

number of the friends and relatives of Jesus were stopping. They had remained there fasting and praying, waiting until Jesus would send down the Holy Ghost upon them, as He had promised.

On Sunday, ten days after the Ascension, the Apostles and the Blessed Virgin, and many of the friends of Jesus, were together in the Upper Room, where Our Lord had eaten the Last Supper, when suddenly there came a sound from Heaven, as of a mighty wind coming, and it filled the whole house. And there appeared to them parted tongues, as it were, of fire, and it sat upon every one of them, and they were filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak in diverse tongues. Thus the Holy Ghost became the soul of the church which Christ had founded. The Church is in the world to-day, and it will remain in the world till the end of time to teach all who love and obey God what they must believe and what they must do in order to be saved.

HYMN TO THE HOLY GHOST

St. Gregory the Great.

Come, Spirit of the mighty Word,
We need Thy presence and Thy aid;
Be Thy supernal graces poured
Into the breasts which Thou hast made.

Well art Thou called the Paraclete,
Thy mercies comfort and condole,
The fount of life, the love, the heat,
The soothing unction of the soul.

Bearer of sevenfold blessedness,
Finger of God to guide and keep,
Shedding from Heaven the promised grace,
Enriching tongues with holy speech;

Kindle our senses with Thy light,
Thy love into our bosoms pour,
Sustain each weakness with Thy might,
And raise our souls forevermore.

Drive from our path the evil one;
Bring gentle peace to crown our day;
With Thee before us leading on,
We shall not into error stray.

Grant, that we may the Father know,
And feel the love of Christ the Son,
Through Thee; and in Thy holy glow
Forever see the Three in One.

Be glory to the Father given,
And to the risen Son, and Thee,
O Holy Ghost, let earth and Heaven
Ring with one praise eternally.

—*Tr. D. J. Donahoe*

THOUGHTS FOR US

Only those who believe in God and obey Him go to Heaven. God spoke to Adam and Eve in the Garden, and they were happy while they believed Him and obeyed Him. When they disbelieved and disobeyed they were cast out of Paradise.

Noe and his family believed in God and obeyed Him, and they were saved from the flood in the ark. All the other people who lived at that time disbelieved in God and disobeyed Him, and they were drowned in the flood.

God sent Moses and the prophets to His Chosen People, and only those who believed and obeyed them were saved.

When Jesus came down to earth He told us more fully what we must believe and what we must do, and He founded His Church to teach us everything that it is necessary for us to believe. Only those who believe what the Church teaches and do what the Church commands will be saved. The chief things which the Church teaches and which we must believe are contained in the Apostles' Creed, and the chief things which we must do are contained in the Ten Commandments of God and the six commandments of the Church.

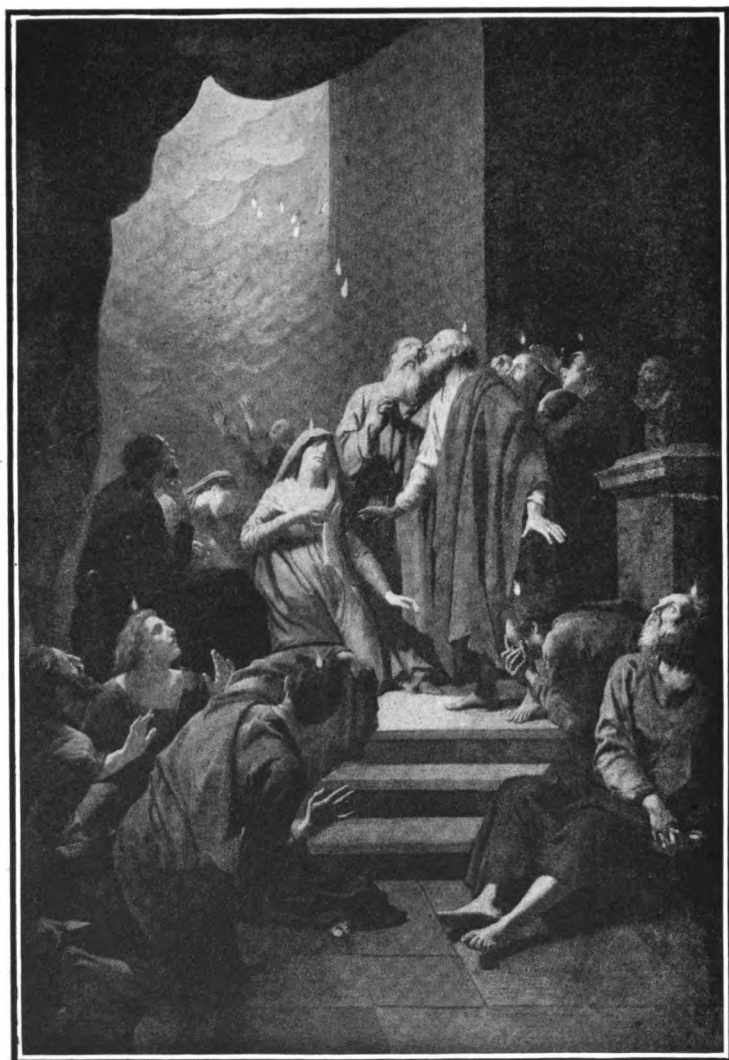
THE CHURCH

A little seed washed red—
It fell from a wounded hand—
Lo, how its roots have spread,
It now fills all the land.

—*Charles L. O'Donnell, C. S. C.*

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, Our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified; died, and was buried. He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into Heaven, sitteth at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.



THE DESCENT OF THE HOLY GHOST

QUESTIONS

When the Chosen People were treated cruelly by the Egyptians, how did God save them?

How did God prepare the Chosen People for the coming of Our Saviour?

How did Our Saviour prove that He was the Son of God?

What was the last great proof that He gave?

Where did Our Lord go after He rose from the dead?

What did Our Lord do for us before He ascended into Heaven?

How did Our Lord found the Church?

Why did He found it?

What position in the Church did He give to Peter?

Why did He change his name from Simon to Peter?

What power did He give Peter?

Who are the successors of St. Peter?

Who are the successors of the other Apostles?

How did Our Lord appoint Peter and his successors the Popes to be shepherds in His place?

What did Our Lord say to the Apostles just before He ascended into Heaven?

When did Our Lord ascend into Heaven?

What is the day called?

What did the Apostles do after Our Lord ascended into Heaven?

Who were with the Apostles when the Holy Ghost descended upon them?

How did the Holy Ghost descend upon the Apostles?

What is the day called on which the Holy Ghost descended upon the Apostles?

Must we believe what the Church teaches?

Where are the chief things which the Church teaches to be found?

Say the Apostles' Creed.

PART II

SACRIFICE

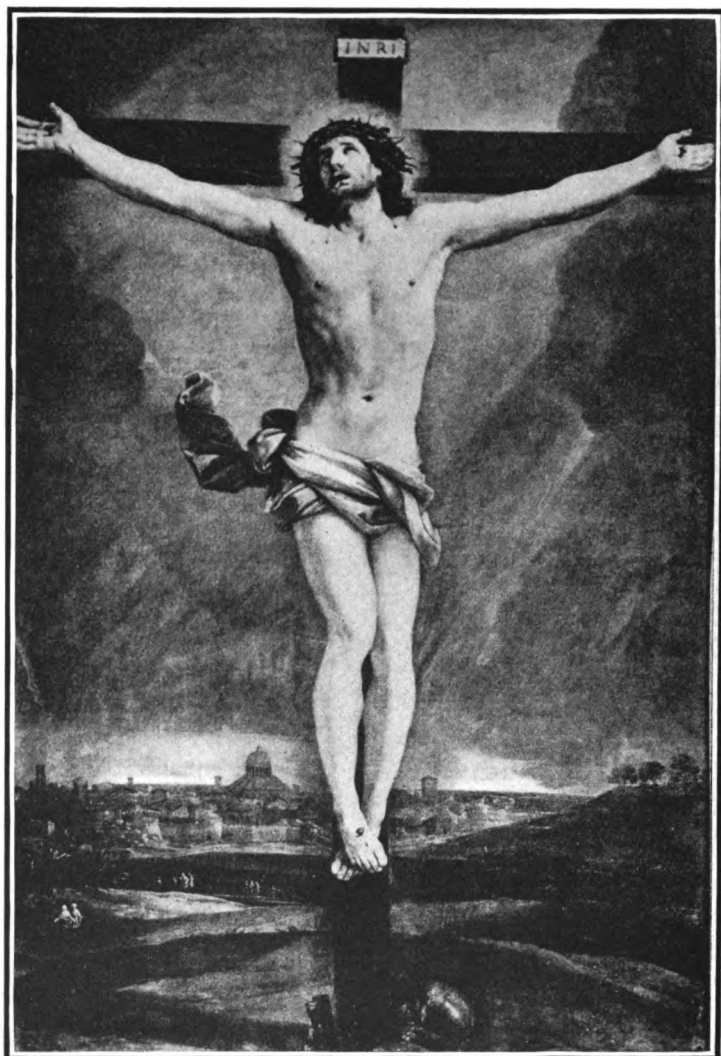
“He was offered because it was his own will, and he opened not his mouth: he shall be led as a sheep to the slaughter, and shall be dumb as a lamb before his shearer, and he shall not open his mouth.”—Isaias LIII, 7.

“He humbled himself, becoming obedient unto death, even to the death of the cross. For which cause God also hath exalted him, and hath given him a name which is above all names: that in the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, of those that are in heaven, on earth, and under the earth: and that every tongue should confess that the Lord Jesus Christ is in the glory of God the Father.”

—Philip. II, 8-11.

Prayer from the Roman Missal for the Feast of the Most Precious Blood.

O Almighty and Everlasting God, who hast appointed Thine Only-begotten Son to be the Redeemer of the world, and hast been pleased to be reconciled by His blood: Grant us, we beseech Thee, so to venerate with solemn worship the price of our Redemption, and to be on earth so defended by its power from the evils of this present life that we may rejoice in its perpetual fruit in heaven. Through the same Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.



THE CRUCIFIXION—*Guido Reni*

EARLY SACRIFICES

GOD

I see Thee in the distant blue;
But in the violet's dell of dew,
Behold, I breathe and touch Thee, too.

—*Father Tabb*

The very first lessons which God taught to the children of Adam and Eve were: (1) How to adore Him; (2) How to thank Him for His loving kindness to them; (3) How to obtain forgiveness for their sins; (4) How to ask Him for what they needed. Every child, even to this day, must learn these four lessons, so that he may be fit to enter Heaven.

We adore God when we express in the right way the truth that everything in the world depends on Him, and that nothing can exist without Him, any more than there could be daylight without the sun. Now, God taught the children of Adam and Eve how to express this truth by offering sacrifices to Him.

Cain and Abel were the oldest sons of our First Parents. Cain tilled the soil and raised grain

and fruit. Abel was a shepherd, who took care of the sheep and cattle. Now, Cain offered a sacrifice to God of the fruits of the earth, and Abel offered a sacrifice of the most beautiful lambs and calves of his flocks. The smoke of Abel's sacrifice ascended straight up to Heaven, which was a sign that his sacrifice was pleasing to God, but the smoke of Cain's sacrifice rolled down into the valley, which was a sign that God was not pleased with Cain and refused to accept his sacrifice.

Now, both of these sacrifices were made in the manner which God had directed, and they both expressed the truth that God created all things and that everything belongs to Him. But God accepted Abel's sacrifice because Abel's heart was



NOE'S SACRIFICE—*Raphael*

pure and he loved God and his brother. God rejected Cain's sacrifice because Cain's heart was not pure; he was selfish and did not love God and his brother as he should.

When Noe came out

of the ark with his family he built an altar to God, on which he offered a holocaust of fowls and cattle. God was pleased with this sacrifice, and blessed Noe and his family, and promised that He would never again, on account of man's sin, destroy the world by a flood.

Whenever Abraham or Isaac or Jacob, or any of the great servants of God, wished to ask God for direction, or for a favor of any kind, they offered a sacrifice, and then He heard them and answered their prayers. Thus, when Israel heard that his son Joseph was alive and was governor of Egypt, he went to the well of the oath and offered a sacrifice to God. That night God appeared to him in a vision and told him not to fear, but to go down into Egypt, as his son Joseph wished him to do. He promised Israel that He would take care of his children, and when the right time came he would bring them back out of Egypt.

Whenever God granted a favor to any of his people, they offered Him a sacrifice of thanksgiving to express to Him their gratitude.

THE BRAND OF CAIN

I have upon my brow the sign
 Of sorrow and of pain;
 Alas! no hopeful cross is mine,
 It is the brand of Cain.

The course of passion, and the fret
 Of Godless hope and fears—
 Toil, care, and guilt,—their hues have set,
 And fix'd their sternness there.

Saviour! wash out the imprinted shame;
 That I no more may pine,
 Sin's martyr, though not meet to claim
 Thy cross, a saint of Thine.

—*Cardinal Newman*

THOUGHTS FOR US

The first four lessons that God taught to the children of Adam were the four purposes for which they should offer sacrifice. When we assist at Mass we join with the priest in offering the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass to God for the same four purposes, and we offer up our prayers night and morning for these same ends. The ends are: adoration, thanksgiving, petition, and atonement.

God refused to accept Cain's sacrifice because his heart was not pure and because he did not love God and his brother as he should. This should

teach us that our prayers and our offerings to God will not be accepted by Him unless we love Him and our neighbor and are willing to obey His law in all things. Our Saviour taught this same lesson when He said to His disciples: "If thou offer thy gift at the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hast anything against thee, leave there thy offering before the altar and go first and be reconciled to thy brother. Then come and offer thy gift."

The sacrifice which Noe offered was called a holocaust. This means that the animal sacrificed was completely burned on the altar. By this sacrifice Noe expressed to God the truths that, on account of their sins and the sins of our First Parents, he and all his family deserved to die together with all those who were drowned in the flood.

But the death of animals, or even the death of Noe himself, could not take away a sin that had been committed. We can kill a bird, but we cannot give it back its life; only God can do that. And so by disobeying God we kill our souls, and nothing that we can do will restore life to them; only God can do that.

The holocausts offered for sin were like a prophecy of Our Saviour's death. They kept the people in mind of the wickedness of sin and of the punishment they deserved on account of their sins. Every time a holocaust was offered it reminded the people they could not go to Heaven until after the Son of God came down to earth and died for them to take away their sins and give back life to their souls.

SACRIFICE

Is it not just and meet
 We offer Him the wheat
 Who sent the sun and rain
 That ripened all the grain?

And of the yellow sheep
 The best for Him we keep,
 Since all things, hour by hour,
 Exist but by His power.

—Charles L. O'Donnell, C. S. C.

QUESTIONS

Why did Cain and Abel offer sacrifices to God?

Why did God accept Abel's sacrifice and reject Cain's?

What truths did God teach the children of Adam and Eve to express by sacrifice?

For what four ends were the sacrifices offered?

What kind of sacrifice did Noe offer after he came out of the ark?

What did this sacrifice express to God?

When did Abraham and Isaac and Jacob offer sacrifices to God?

What truths do we learn from God's refusal to accept Cain's sacrifice?

What words did Our Lord use to teach the same lesson?

Could the sacrifice of animals take away sin?

What did the holocaust remind the people of?

For what ends is the Sacrifice of the Mass offered?

For what ends do we offer up our prayers night and morning?

ABRAHAM'S OBEDIENCE

Isaac, you do not bear
The wood alone,
For on your father's heart
It weighs like stone.

—*Charles L. O'Donnell, C. S. C.*

Abraham always obeyed God, and God blessed him and made him very rich. He gave him everything he asked for, with one exception. All his life Abraham had prayed for children, but God did not answer his prayer until he was one hundred years old. Then God blessed him and gave him a son whom he named Isaac.

Abraham loved Isaac with all his heart, for he was a good boy who loved and obeyed his parents. Abraham, relying upon God's promises, hoped that Isaac would grow up to be a man, and that he would have many children. Abraham's heart overflowed with gratitude to God for His goodness to him in all things, but most of all for having answered his prayer by giving him his son.

Up to this time it had been easy for Abraham

to obey God, for the things God asked of him were not hard for him to do, but now God determined to put his loyalty and obedience to a severe test. One night He appeared to Abraham and said: Take thy only begotten son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and go to a certain mountain, which I will show you, and offer him for a holocaust.

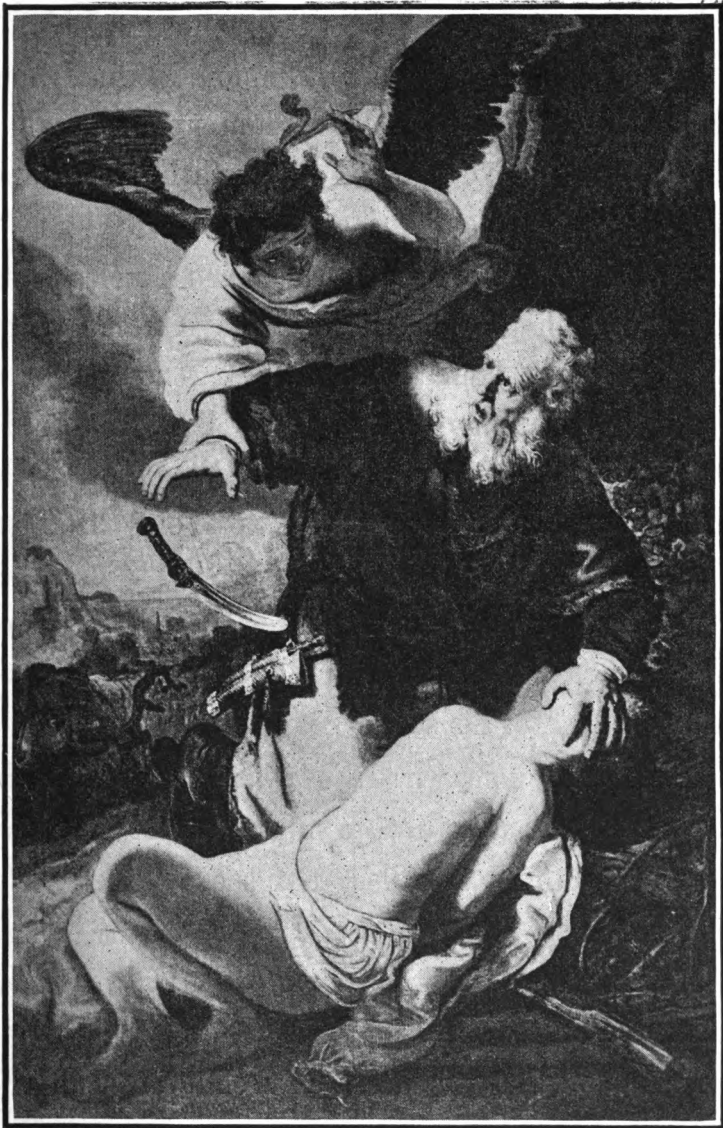
It is hard for us to imagine what a dreadful thing this seemed to Abraham. It would have been easy for him to lay down his own life at God's command, but God demanded more than this of him. He commanded him to take his only son, whom he loved more than himself, and to kill him with his own hands and burn him on the altar.

Abraham did not know why God asked him to do this dreadful thing. He did not know what good the sacrifice of his son was going to do, but God commanded it, and that was enough for him. No matter what it meant and no matter how hard it was to obey, Abraham knew only one thing to do when God commanded, and that was to obey Him without delay. So he did not even wait until morning. He rose immediately in the middle of the night and saddled his ass and took with him two young men and his son Isaac.

When he had cut wood for the holocaust he set out at once for the place where God had commanded him to offer the sacrifice. He traveled for two days, and on the third day he lifted up his eyes and saw afar off the mountain to which God had directed him. Then Abraham said to the young men: Stay you here with the ass, while I and the boy go to the top of yonder mountain. After we have offered sacrifice to God there we will return to you.

Abraham took the wood for the holocaust and laid it upon the shoulder of his son Isaac, while he himself carried the fire and the sword. After the father and son had traveled in silence for a time, Isaac said: My father! and he answered: What wilt thou, my son. And Isaac said: We have fire and wood, but where is the victim for the holocaust. And his father replied: God himself will provide the victim.

Abraham and Isaac traveled on together without speaking further, for Abraham's heart was breaking with grief at the thought of what he would have to do when he reached the top of the mountain. At last they came to the place where God had ordered him to make the sacrifice. He built an



SACRIFICE OF ABRAHAM—*Rembrandt*

altar and arranged the wood upon it, and when he had bound Isaac, he laid him upon the altar on the pile of wood. He put forth his hand and took the sword to sacrifice his only son.

At that moment, behold, he heard a voice from Heaven calling to him: Abraham, Abraham, and he answered: Here I am, Lord. And the voice said: Lay not thy hand upon the boy; neither do thou anything to him. Now I know that thou fearest me and hast not spared thine only begotten son for my sake. Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw a ram amongst the briars sticking fast by the horns, and he took it and offered it for a holocaust instead of his son.

And the voice from Heaven called out to Abraham a second time, saying: Because thou hast done this thing and hast not spared thine only begotten son for my sake, I will bless thee and will multiply thy children until they shall be as numerous as the stars of Heaven and as the grains of sand on the seashore. Thy children shall triumph over their enemies, and in them all the nations

of the earth shall be blessed, because thou hast obeyed my voice.

Then Abraham and his son returned to the young men, and they all went back together to Bersabee, where Abraham lived.

THOUGHTS FOR US

It is easy to obey when we are asked to do pleasant things, but the harder it is to obey the more we prove our loyalty and obedience. Adam loved Eve more than he loved God. He disobeyed God for Eve's sake and was cast out of Paradise. But Abraham's obedience proved to God that he loved Him more than he loved his own son. God blessed him for this obedience and promised that the Saviour of the world would be among his children.

Abraham proved his love of God by his willingness to sacrifice his only son at God's command. God intended that this should show us how much He loved us, since He sacrificed His only begotten Son Jesus on the cross for our sakes.

Isaac carried the wood for the sacrifice on his shoulders to the mountain where he was to be sacrificed, and Christ carried the cross on His

Divine shoulders to Calvary and offered up His life upon it for our sakes.

We should be glad of the chance to prove our loyalty to our parents by obeying them when it is hard to obey. Whenever God asks us to do hard things we should thank Him for giving us a chance to prove to Him our love and obedience.

QUESTIONS

How did Abraham prove his loyalty and obedience to God?

Did he obey promptly?

If we are glad to obey, do we do the thing promptly, or put it off as long as possible?

Would Abraham have pleased God if, instead of getting up at once and starting on his journey, he had waited until morning?

How does Abraham's obedience help us to understand God's love for us?

How does Isaac remind us of Our Saviour?

What did God say to Abraham when He saw he was willing to sacrifice his only son for His sake?

What did God mean when He said to Abraham: In thy children all the nations of the earth shall be blessed because thou hast obeyed my voice?

THE PASCHAL LAMB

When God saw how much the Children of Israel suffered under the Egyptians, He sent Moses to deliver them from their enemies. He spoke to Moses out of a burning bush on Mount Horeb and told him everything he must do and say, in order to free his people from their bondage.

In obedience to God's command Moses went to Pharaoh, the king of the Egyptians, and asked him to let the Hebrews go out into the wilderness to offer sacrifice to God. This made Pharaoh angry. He ordered Moses to leave his presence, and commanded his overseers to punish the Hebrews more than ever.

Nine times Moses went to Pharaoh and told him of God's command that he should let the Hebrews go out into the wilderness to offer sacrifice. Each time Pharaoh refused to obey God's command, and each time Moses called down a plague upon him and upon all the Egyptians.

Now, each time, while the Egyptians were suffering from the plague, they went to Pharaoh and begged him to let the Hebrews go out and offer

sacrifice, so that God might take away the plague. And each time Pharaoh sent for Moses and promised if he took away the plague he would let the Hebrews go out into the wilderness to offer sacrifice to God. But as soon as the plague ceased Pharaoh broke his promise and refused to let them go.

After this happened for the ninth time, God said to Moses: I will bring one more plague upon the Egyptians, and then Pharaoh will let you and the Children of Israel go out into the wilderness, as I have commanded. Nay, the Egyptians will urge your people to depart from among them because of their fear of the punishment which I will bring upon them.

Therefore, tell my people what I say. Let them be ready, for on Thursday at midnight I will send an angel of death into Egypt, who will kill the first-born son in every family of the Egyptians, from the first-born of Pharaoh even to the first-born of the poorest family in the land. The angel will also kill the first-born of all the animals that belong to the Egyptians, and the whole country will be filled with weeping and wailing.

But among the Children of Israel everything

will be in peace; there will not so much as a dog bark in the place where they live, so all shall know what a wonderful difference the Lord makes between the Egyptians and the Children of Israel.

Speak to the Children of Israel in my name and tell them to prepare for their departure out of Egypt in the following manner: On the tenth day of the month let every man take a lamb for his family, and let the lamb be a male, one year old, perfect and without blemish. If a man's family be not numerous enough, let his neighbor join with him, so there shall be a sufficient number of people in the house to eat all of the lamb at one meal.

Let the lambs be kept until Thursday, the fourteenth day of the month, and the whole multitude of the Children of Israel shall sacrifice the lambs on that evening. Every man shall sprinkle the blood of the lamb, over

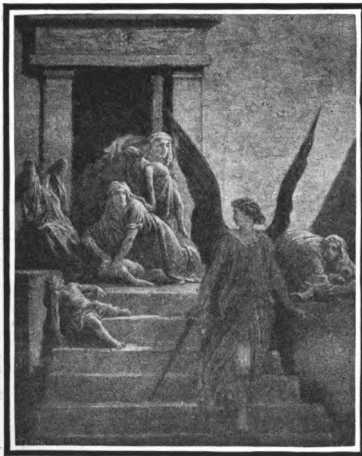


THE FIRST PASSOVER

—*Stuerboudt*

the door and on the doorposts of the house in which his family is gathered together. He shall roast the lamb before the fire, and he, together with his family, shall eat it with unleavened bread and wild lettuce. And if anything of the lamb be left after the meal it shall be burned in the fire. When the lamb is roasted and ready to be eaten, all the members of the family shall dress themselves as if for a journey, and, standing up, they shall eat the lamb in haste.

Now, the Children of Israel did everything as God had directed them, and at midnight on the fourteenth day of the month the Angel of Death



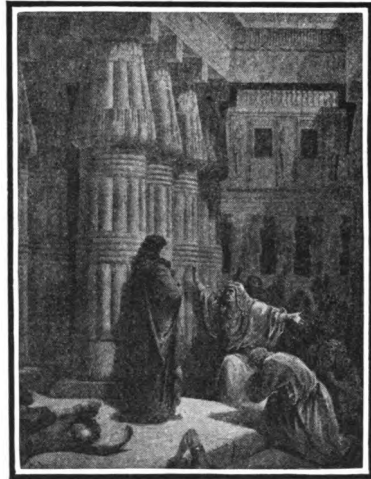
THE FIRST-BORN SLAIN

—Doré

passed through the land and killed the first-born son in all the houses of the Egyptians, and the first-born of all their cattle. But wherever he saw the blood of the lamb on the door-posts and over the door, he knew that the Children of Israel dwelt therein, and he passed over the house without touching any one.

Immediately a great cry rose up from all the houses of the Egyptians, for in every house there was mourning for a dead son. Terror filled Pharaoh's heart. At last he was afraid of the anger of God and sent his servant to Moses and Aaron to say to them: Arise quickly, and go forth out of Egypt, and let all the Hebrews go with you to offer sacrifice to God, as He has commanded. Take with you your wives and children and your cattle and pray to God that He be no longer angry with me, but forgive me for my disobedience and bless me.

All the Egyptians were frightened when they saw how the Angel of God had killed the oldest son in every family. They were afraid that they might all die in the same way, because of the anger of God, which had been drawn down upon them by the disobedience of their king. They gave gold and silver vessels and fine



EGYPTIANS URGE MOSES TO
DEPART—*Doré*

clothing and linen to the Children of Israel and begged them to go quickly into the wilderness and offer sacrifice to God, so that He might no longer be angry with them.

OTHER CHRISTS

The paschal lamb is in the fold,
 Sleeping after play;
 It cannot know the dignity
 That waits it with the day.
 It will be chosen on to-morrow morn
 To die, a symbol of the Christ unborn.

And so in many a cot to-night
 Are little boys asleep
 Who do not know the dignity
 The years for them may keep.
 When they, as priests, to Christ's
 own stature grown,
 Shall make the sacrifice of Christ
 their own.

—*Charles L. O'Donnell, C. S. C.*

THOUGHTS FOR US

The Egyptians called the Children of Israel Hebrews, a word which means *crossed over*, because their Father, Abraham, had come from beyond the river Euphrates. The Children of Israel are often called this name down to the present time.

God wanted the Hebrews to remember their suffering in Egypt and to remember how He had delivered them from the hands of their enemies, and so He ordered them to sacrifice the Paschal lamb in the same way once a year. They were to eat the lamb on a Thursday night, with unleavened bread and wild lettuce. This feast was called the Pasch, or Passover, because the Angel of Death passed over the houses of the Hebrews when he saw the blood of the lamb on their door-posts.

The sacrifice of the Paschal lamb kept the people in mind of their deliverance from bondage in Egypt. It was also a symbol of the death which Jesus was to suffer for us on the cross to deliver us from the bondage of sin. The blood of the Paschal lamb on the door-posts saved the Children of Israel from death, and so the blood of Jesus Christ, shed for us on the Cross, will save us from the spiritual death which we deserve for our sins.

The flesh of the lamb strengthened the Children of Israel for their journey into the wilderness, and so the flesh of Our Lord, which he gives us in Holy Communion, will strengthen us in our journey through this world, and when we are dying it will strengthen us for our journey to Heaven.

The Paschal lamb was perfect and without blemish, because it was to remind us of Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, who was the only perfect victim that was ever offered in sacrifice to God.

QUESTIONS

How did God punish Pharaoh and the Egyptians for their cruelty to the Hebrews and for their disobedience to His commands?

Why did Pharaoh let Moses and the Hebrews go out into the wilderness at last?

How did God show that He favored the Children of Israel more than the Egyptians?

How did the blood of the lamb save the Hebrews from death?

What does this remind us of?

What did the flesh of the lamb do for the Hebrews?

What does it remind us of?

Why did the Hebrews continue to sacrifice the Paschal lamb every year?

Why is the feast called the feast of the Pasch, or Passover?

Why is the lamb sacrificed on that evening called the Paschal lamb?

How old was Our Saviour when He went up to Jerusalem with Joseph and Mary to celebrate the feast of the Passover?

THE LAMB OF GOD

Many hundred years after Moses had led the Hebrew people out of Egypt the Messiah was born. During all this time God watched over his Chosen People. He sent them many holy men and prophets to teach them how to live in the right way and how to prepare for the coming of the Messiah.

St. John the Baptist, Our Lord's cousin, was the greatest of all the prophets. He was sent to prepare the world for the coming of Jesus by preaching to them and leading them to fast and do penance for their sins.

Many of those who listened to St. John thought he was the Messiah whom God had promised to send into the world to redeem us from our sins, but St. John said: No, I am not the Redeemer; I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness; prepare

ye the way of the Lord and make straight His path. But there hath stood one in the midst of you whom you know not, the latchet of whose shoe I am not worthy to loose.

When Jesus was thirty years old He went to the river Jordan, where St. John was preaching penance to the people and baptizing them. When St. John saw Jesus coming to him, he said to his followers: *Behold, the Lamb of God; behold Him who taketh away the sins of the world.*

While Jesus was being baptized in the Jordan by St. John the heavens opened and the Holy Ghost descended upon Him in the form of a dove, and a voice from heaven said: "*Thou art my beloved Son; in Thee I am well pleased.*"

After this Jesus went about through all the country for three years preaching to the people. He told them plainly that He was the Son of God who had come down from Heaven to save the world. He worked many wonderful miracles in the sight of the multitude, so that every one might know He was the Son of God.

Many people believed in Him and followed Him from place to place, listening to His words and learning how to live. But there were also wicked



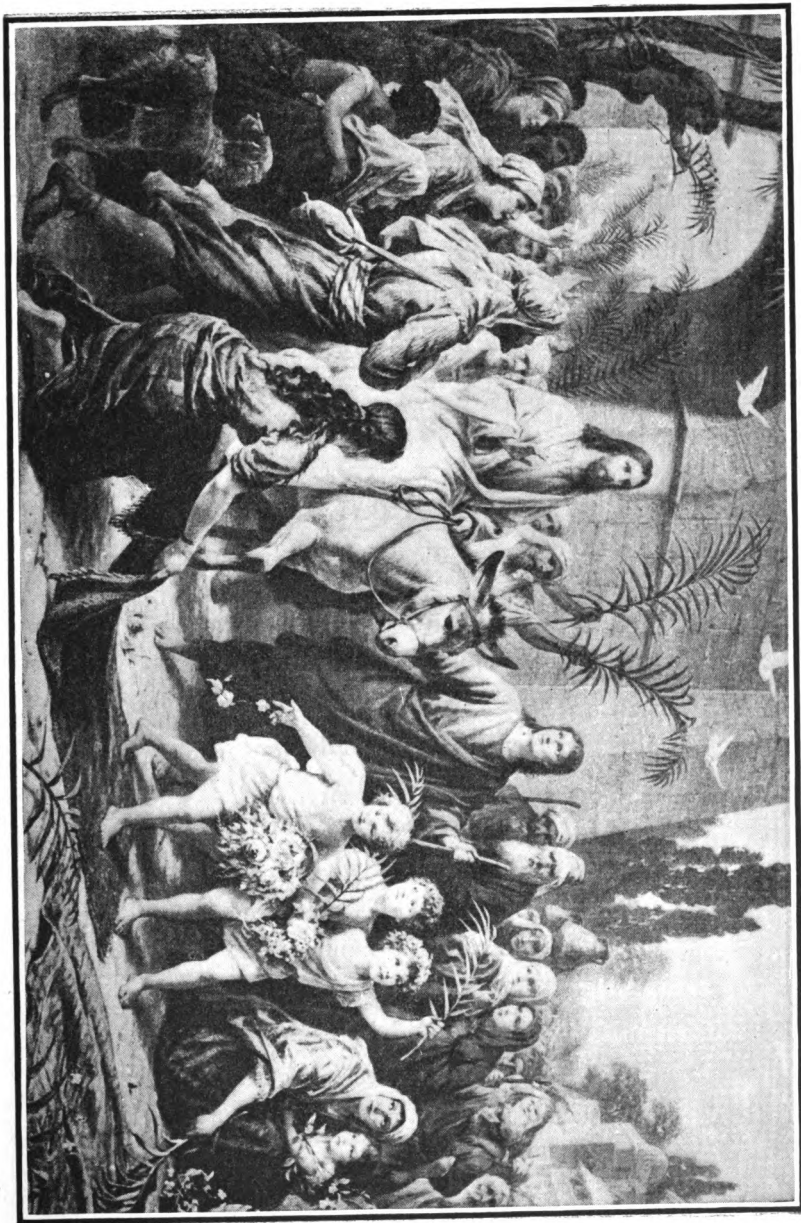
THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST—*Murillo*

people in Jerusalem in those days who did not love God or keep His Commandments. These people cared only for themselves, for money, and fine houses and beautiful clothes, and they despised Our Lord, because He was poor. They would not listen to Him or believe what He said. The Messiah they wanted was one who would make them richer and give them more power and glory in this world.

Our Saviour told these people that God would punish them for their wickedness and that they would go to hell when they died unless they were sorry for their sins and did penance. This made them angry at Our Saviour and they wanted to kill him.

A few days before Our Lord died He went to Bethany and found that Lazarus had been dead and buried four days. Martha and Mary, the sisters of Lazarus, had such faith in Our Lord that they believed He would not have let Lazarus die had He been there at the time, and now in answer to their prayers He called Lazarus back from the grave.

The next day, when Our Saviour started to go over Mount Olivet to Jerusalem, riding on an ass,



ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM—Ploekhorst

a multitude of the people came out to meet Him. They spread their garments and flowers before Him on the path and waved palm branches in their hands, and all the multitude welcomed Him as the Messiah and shouted: hozannas to the Son of David. Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord!

HYMN FOR PALM SUNDAY

Theodulphus

All glory, praise and honor
To Thee, O Christ, we bring,
And sing like Sion's children,
Hozannas to Our King.

For Thou art king, Lord Jesus,
Of David's royal line,
And blest are all who serve Thee
And call Thy name divine.

The saints and holy angels
Exalt in heaven Thy name,
And men on earth forever
Thy glory shall proclaim.

As came the Jews to meet Thee
With palms upon the way,
So we with prayerful voices
Lift up our songs to-day.

As they loud praises paid Thee
Upon the road of pain,
So we with sounding music
Salute Thy endless reign.

As their devotion pleased Thee,
So be our offering,—
The song, the prayer, the praises,
We bring Thee, gentle King.

—*Tr. D. J. Donahoe.*

THOUGHTS FOR US

Only those who were ready to receive Our Lord were blessed by His coming. It was to those who followed St. John's advice and did penance for their sins that he pointed out Our Saviour as the Lamb of God. People who were thinking about themselves and their riches were at home attending to business or enjoying themselves. They did not know that the Saviour was born into the world, and when they saw and heard Him they refused to believe in Him. Unless our hearts are pure and unselfish we will not hear the voice of Jesus nor understanding His message.

QUESTIONS

Who was St. John the Baptist?

What did he say about himself?

What did he say about Our Saviour?

What kind of people followed Our Saviour and believed in Him?

Where was Bethany?

Who was Lazarus?

What is the day called upon which Our Lord entered Jerusalem riding on an ass?

THE NEW COMMANDMENT

On the Thursday immediately following Palm Sunday Our Lord went into Jerusalem to the house of a friend to celebrate the feast of the Passover with His Apostles. He knew the city was full of His enemies and wicked men who wanted to kill Him, but He was not afraid. He came into the world not to do His own will, but to do the will of His Father and die for our salvation.

When the father of a family knows he is going to die he calls his children to his bedside. He bids them good-bye and tells them how much he loves them and what he wants them to do after he is dead. Every good child loves to remember his father's last words and is careful to obey his last wishes. And every Christian loves to dwell on the things that were said and done at Our Lord's Last Supper.

After Our Saviour had eaten the Paschal lamb with His Apostles, in just the same manner that the Children of Israel ate the first Paschal lamb on the night before Moses led them out of Egypt, He told them that the time appointed by His Father for Him to die on the cross had come. He told them that this was the last time that He

would eat with them before He died, and gave them His last messages for all of us. He said:

My little children, love one another, as I have loved you, and let not your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many mansions, and I go to prepare a place for you, and I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you also may be. Whatsoever you shall ask the Father in my name that will I do, and if you shall ask me anything in my name that also will I do.

If you love me, keep my Commandments. He that keepeth my Commandments, he it is that loveth me. He that loveth me, shall be loved by my Father, and I will love him and will show myself to him. If any one love me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and we will stay with him.

These things have I spoken to you while I am yet with you, but the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, He will teach you all things and will bring to your mind whatsoever I have said to you.

My peace I give unto you. Let not your heart be troubled nor let it be afraid, for as the Father

hath loved me, I also have loved you. These things have I spoken to you that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be filled.

A NEW COMMANDMENT I give unto you, that you love one another as I have loved you. By this shall all men know that you are my disciples, if you have love one for another. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love than this no man hath, that he lay down his life for his friend. You are my friends if you do the things that I command you.

I have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. But when the Holy Ghost is come, He will teach you all truth, and the things that are to come He will show you.

CONTENT

Were all the heavens an overladen bough
Of ripened benediction lowered above me,
What could I crave, soul-satisfied as now
That thou dost love me?

The door is shut. To each unsheltered blessing
Henceforth I say, "Depart! What wouldst thou
of me?"

Beggared I am of want, this boon possessing,
That thou dost love me.

—*Father Tabb*

THOUGHTS FOR US

Before Our Lord was born the Hebrew people were scattered over the whole world, and many of them turned away from God and neglected His Commandments. But all who remained faithful to God returned to Jerusalem every year to celebrate the feast of the Passover on the day which we now call Holy Thursday.

When Jesus was twelve years old He went up to Jerusalem with His parents and kinsfolk to celebrate the feast of the Passover, and remained in the temple for three days, teaching the doctors and asking them questions. He explained to them the meaning of the prophecies and showed them that it was the time foretold for the coming of the Son of God.

Every year after this Our Lord returned to Jerusalem to celebrate this feast, but the people did not know that he was the Messiah until St. John pointed Him out as the Lamb of God who was to take away the sins of the world.

Every time a priest says Mass he repeats the

words of St. John three times, saying: Behold the Lamb of God; behold Him who takes away the sins of the world.

O TENDER JESUS.

St. Bernard

O tender Jesus, let me feel
Thy love with ever growing zeal,
And by Thy presence bring to me
The power Thy glorious truths to see.

Upon my lonely couch at night
Thy love shall fill my heart with light;
In crowded throngs, or all alone
I'll seek the glory of Thy throne.

As Mary sought Thee at the tomb,
So in the morn to Thee I'll come;
And worship with that warm desire
Which lights the soul with living fire.

Upon the ground my tears shall flow,
Thy wounds shall bow my head in woe;
While prostrate at Thy sacred feet
I'll cling to Thee in love complete.

I'll follow where Thy steps have trod,
And kiss with tears the sacred sod;
That in Thy love my soul shall live,
That grace and favor Thou may'st give.

—*Tr. D. J. Donahoe.*

QUESTIONS

What did Our Lord do on the Thursday evening before He died?

What messages did He leave for us?

How many of these messages do you know?

What was the new Commandment which Our Saviour gave?

What did Our Saviour promise to those who kept His Commandments?

What did Our Saviour promise to do for us after He should have ascended into Heaven?

How are all men to know whether we are followers of Our Saviour or not?

What is the greatest proof any one can give that he loves his friend?

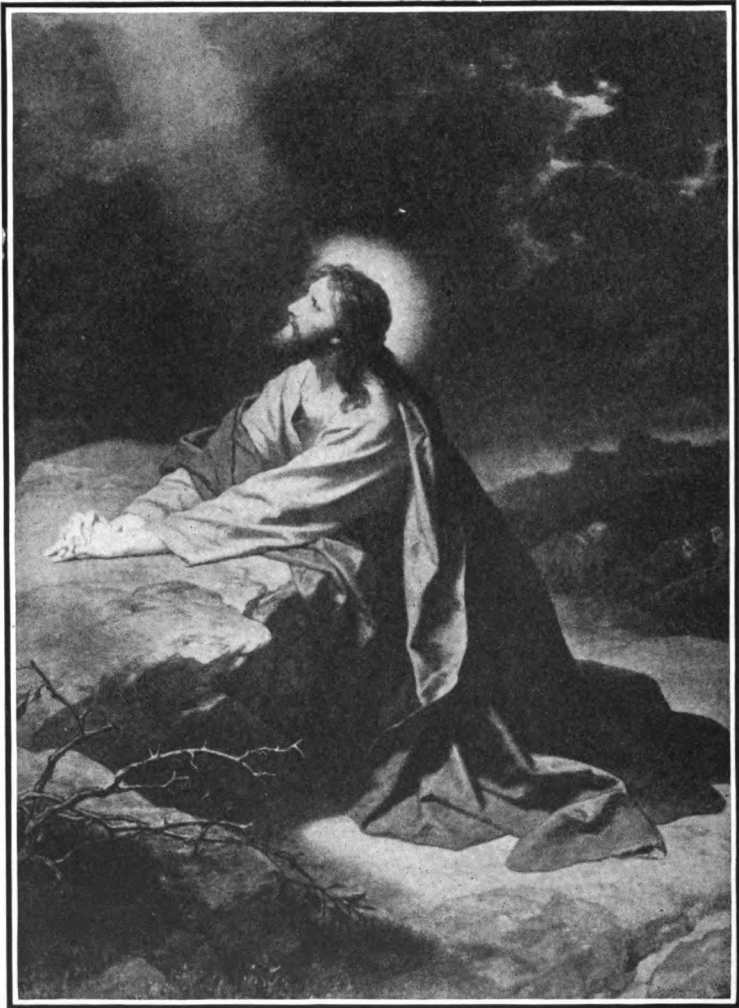
Who are the friends of Jesus?

JESUS PRAYS IN THE GARDEN

Bordering on the path that led from Jerusalem up Mount Olivet there was a beautiful garden called Gethsemane. There were so many olive trees in it that it was sometimes called the garden of olives. After Our Lord had eaten the Last Supper with His Apostles and given them His farewell messages, He went with them to this garden to pray.

They all walked in silence through the streets of Jerusalem out through the gate and down across the brook Kedron, which ran along by the foot of Mount Olivet. When they began to ascend the mountain, Jesus said to His Apostles: All of you will lose faith in me to-night and desert me, as the prophet foretold: I will strike the shepherd and the sheep of the flock will be scattered. But after I shall be risen again I shall go before you into Galilee.

The Apostles were surprised at His words. They could not imagine that the time would ever come when they would lose faith in their beloved Master. St. Peter, whom Our Lord had made the head of His Church, said: *Although all the others*



THE PRAYER IN THE GARDEN—*Hofmann*

lose faith in Thee, yet I will never lose faith in Thee.

And Jesus said to Peter: *Amen, amen, I say to thee, that in this night before the cock crow thou wilt deny me thrice.* But Peter answered: *Yea, Lord, though I should die with Thee, I will not deny Thee.* And all the other Apostles said the same thing.

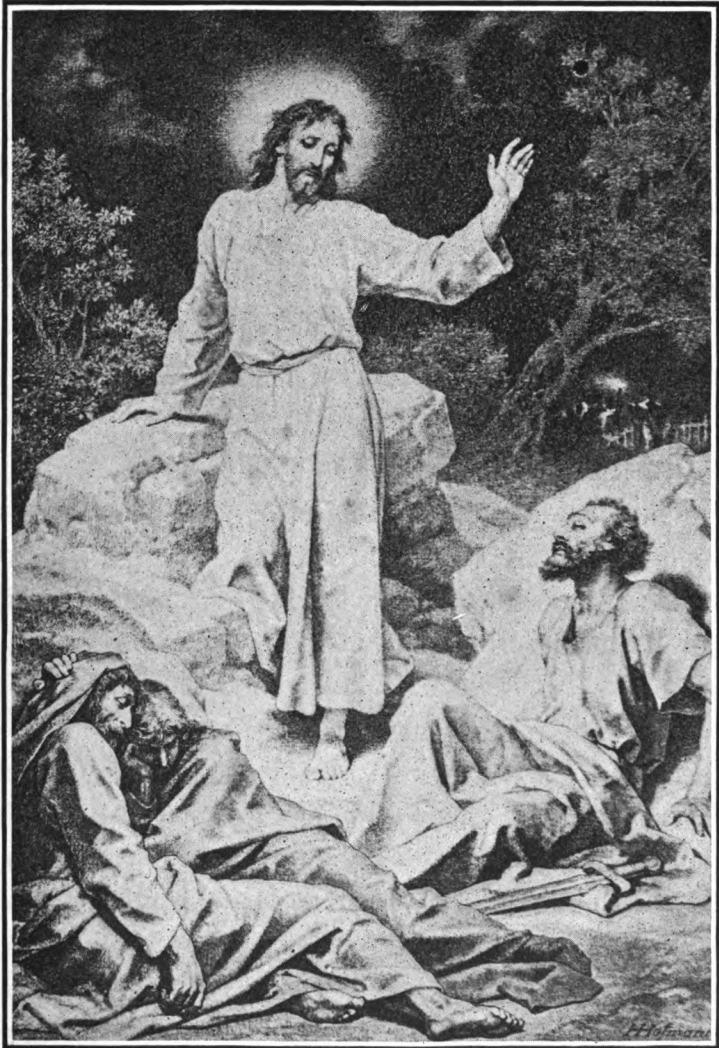
When Jesus reached the Garden of Gethsemane He said to His Apostles: *Sit you here while I go yonder and pray.* And taking Peter, John and James with Him, He went a little way into the garden and then said to them: *My soul is sorrowful even unto death. Stay you here and watch with me.* And He went a little further into the garden and fell upon His face and prayed: *My Father, if it be possible, let this chalice pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as Thou wilt.*

After a while He came back to the place where He had left St. Peter and His own cousins, John and James, and He found them sleeping. He said to Peter: *What! could you not watch one hour with me? Watch ye and pray that ye enter not into temptation.* And after this Jesus went back and prayed to His Heavenly Father a second time:

My Father, if this chalice may not pass away, but I must drink it, Thy will be done. And coming again to His chosen disciples, He found them sleeping, and His heart was filled with bitter sorrow. Even His dearest friends were asleep when they should have been watching and praying with Him.

Jesus knew it was His Father's will that He should die on the Cross to save us from our sins, and He willingly laid down His life for us to prove to us how much He loved us. But the trial was hard to His human nature, and the thought of the dreadful death that awaited Him on the Cross filled His soul with suffering, so He went back into the garden once more and prayed to His Heavenly Father for strength. After He had assured His Heavenly Father of His willingness to obey His will to the end, angels from Heaven came and comforted Him.

Then Jesus arose, and returning to His disciples, said to them: *Sleep ye now and take your rest, for behold the hour is at hand when the Son of Man shall be betrayed into the hands of sinners. Arise, let us go, for behold he is at hand that will betray me.*



TAKE YOUR REST—*Hofmann*

While Jesus was thus speaking, Judas Iscariot, one of the Apostles, came into the garden, bringing with him a crowd of soldiers with swords and clubs, and coming up to Jesus, he said: Hail, Rabbi, and kissed Him. Then Jesus said: Judas, dost thou betray the Son of Man with a kiss? And turning to the crowd, He asked: Whom seek ye? And they answered: Jesus of Nazareth, and Jesus said: I am he, and the crowd fell backward to the ground.

Peter drew his sword and cut off the ear of Malchus, the servant of the high priest, but Jesus touched the man's ear and healed it, and, turning to Peter, He said to him: Put up again thy sword into its place, for all that take the sword shall perish by the sword. Do you not know that I could ask my Father and He would send me more than twelve legions of angels, but how then shall the will of my Father be fulfilled? Shall I not drink the chalice which my Father has given me to drink? And turning to His enemies, Jesus said: You come out with swords and clubs to arrest me, as if I were a robber. I sat daily with you, teaching in the temple, and you did not lay hands on me.

All the Apostles fled, leaving Jesus alone with His enemies, and they laid hold of Him and bound Him with cords and brought Him to Caiphas, the high priest. Peter followed afar off, and when the soldiers brought Jesus into the hall where Caiphas was sitting with his friends, Peter entered the courtyard and sat with the servants around the fire. He wanted to see what was going to happen to Jesus. But when he was asked if he was a friend of Jesus, he became frightened and denied his Master three times before the cock crew. .

THOUGHTS FOR US

One of the twelve men whom Our Lord had chosen for His special friends and Apostles was a wicked traitor named Judas Iscariot, but when Our Lord chose him for an Apostle he was not a bad man. He carried the money belonging to Our Lord and the Apostles and bought whatever was needed, and in time he grew to love money more than his Master.

Judas saw all Our Lord's miracles and heard all He said to the people, but he no longer under-

stood what he saw or heard, because he was all the time thinking of money. He became more selfish every day, and at last he betrayed his Master. He knew that Our Lord's enemies wanted to put Him to death. They were afraid to arrest Him in the day time, because He had so many friends among the people who would defend Him.

One night Judas went to Our Lord's enemies and agreed to deliver Jesus to them under the cover of darkness. After Our Lord had eaten the Paschal lamb with His Apostles He tried to keep Judas from committing the wicked sin that was in his heart. He let him see He knew about the bargain he had made and warned him against the wicked act he was about to commit. But Judas loved money more than he loved his Master, and so, instead of repenting of his sin, he left the supper room and went to the high priest and asked for soldiers to accompany him and arrest Jesus. The soldiers did not know Jesus from the Apostles, and Judas told them to arrest the man whom he should kiss, for that would be Jesus.

Love of money turned one of Our Lord's Apostles into a traitor. From this we should learn to keep our hearts free from love of money or

anything else in this world that might tempt us to do wrong.

QUESTIONS

Where was the Garden of Gethsemane?

What did Our Lord do when He reached the garden?

What prayers did He say?

Did the Apostles watch and pray with Him, as He asked them to do?

Why did Judas become a traitor?

How did he betray Our Lord?

What did Our Saviour say to St. Peter when he cut off the servant's ear with a sword?

Did Our Lord allow Himself to be arrested willingly?

How could He have prevented it?

What would His Father in Heaven have done for Him if He had asked Him?

Before Our Lord went into the garden to pray, what did He tell St. Peter?

What answer did St. Peter make?

What did St. Peter do before the cock crew?

GETHSEMANE.

From the Roman Breviary

Lo, from the Father's flaming throne,
The ever-living Word, the Son,
Urged by sweet love and saving grace,
Comes down to raise our fallen race.

He looks upon our miseries
In mercy; all our need He sees;
He wills our ruin to repair;
And sues the Sire in prostrate prayer.

Bowed 'neath the load of sin, He saith,
"My soul is sorrowful to death;
Though fain the cup would I decline,
Father, Thy will be done, not mine."

The woe of all the world He feels,
While faint upon the ground He kneels;
His great heart trembles with the pain,
Till blood-drops ooze from every vein.

Swift passes from His soul the storm,
An angel lifts the prostrate form;
With strength renewed He goeth forth
The King and Saviour of the earth.

—*Tr. D. J. Donahoe*

JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH

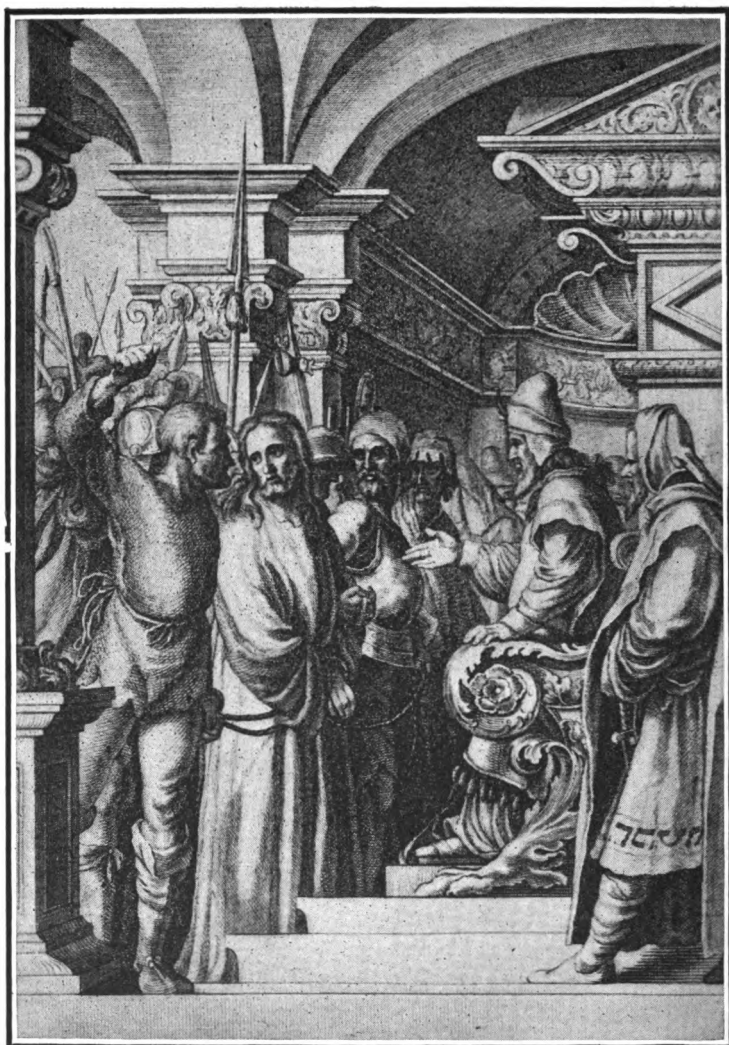
“Lest the whole people die, let one man bleed,”—
So spoke the Jewish priest of God’s own Son.
Through sin of one man all men were undone,
Through death of one, all men from death are freed.
—*Bishop Spalding*

With His hands tied behind his back, the soldiers led Jesus before Caiphas, the high priest, who was sitting on the judgment seat. Caiphas questioned Jesus about His disciples and asked Him what He taught them. And Jesus answered:

I have spoken openly before the whole world; I have done nothing in secret; I have taught in the synagogue and in the temple in the hearing of all the people. Why, therefore, do you ask me what I taught? Ask those who heard me.

At this, the servant of the high priest, who was standing beside Jesus, struck Him across the face with his hand, saying: Answerest thou thus the high priest? After this Jesus remained silent and did not answer any more of the questions put to Him.

Then Caiphas called in men whom he knew would tell lies about Jesus. He wanted them to



CHRIST BEFORE CAIPHAS—*Holbein*

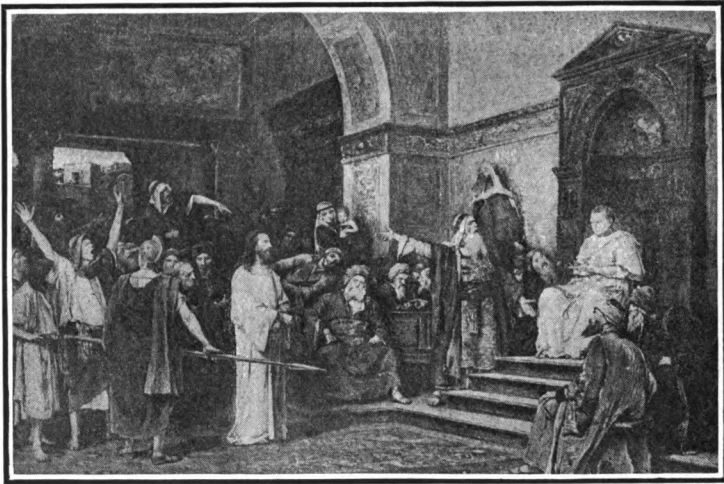
say things about Jesus that would make the Jews angry with Him, so that they would ask the governor for His death. But these false witnesses contradicted one another and proved nothing against Jesus.

Then Caiphas stood up, and lifting his hand towards Heaven, said: Jesus of Nazareth, I command you in the name of God to tell us plainly if you be the Christ, the Son of God. And Jesus answered: I am. And hereafter you shall see me sitting on the right hand of God and coming in the clouds of heaven.

On hearing this, Caiphas turned to the others who were assembled in the hall and said: What need have we for witnesses? All of you have heard Him say He is the Son of God. What think you of it? And they answered: It is blasphemy! He is guilty of death!

Thus Jesus was condemned by the Jews, not because He had said or done anything wrong, but because He told them the truth when they asked Him to do so in the name of God, His Father. He was condemned for saying He was the Son of God.

Then the soldiers led Jesus away to the guard house, where they mocked Him and treated Him cruelly until morning.



CHRIST BEFORE PILATE—*Munkacsy.*

At daylight, Caiphas and those who were with him went to the guard house and commanded the soldiers to take Jesus to the court of the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate. They wanted Pilate to condemn Him to death, so they told him that Jesus called Himself a king. They said He went through the whole country trying to make the people disobey the laws and refuse to pay taxes.

When Pilate heard them, he knew they were telling lies, for he could see by looking at Jesus that He was innocent. He knew that spite and hatred made the high priest accuse Him of these

wicked things. He did not want to condemn Jesus, whom he believed to be a good man, but he was afraid to displease the crowd, who were asking for His death. He asked Jesus a few questions, and when he learned that He came from Galilee, he sent Him to Herod, the king of Galilee, who was in Jerusalem that day.

When Jesus was brought before Herod, Herod wanted Him to work miracles for him, but Jesus would not do it. Then Herod examined Him, but could find no fault in Him, so he sent Him back to Pilate to do with Him what he pleased.

When Jesus was brought back, Pilate called together the chief priests and the judges, and said to them: You have brought this man to me and have accused Him of making trouble among the people. Now, I have examined Him before you and I find that what you have said against Him is not true. I sent Him to Herod, and he also found Him innocent. What, therefore, do you wish I should do with Him? But the people in their hatred of Jesus cried out: Crucify Him! Crucify Him!

While the multitude were crying out for the death of Jesus, Pilate received a message from his wife saying: Have nothing to do with this just

man, for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of Him.

Then Pilate went out on the platform before the people and said: It is my custom to release to you one prisoner every year at the time of the Pasch. Now there is a wicked murderer in prison named Barabbas; which shall I release to you, Barabbas or Jesus? But the crowd shouted: Give us Barabbas! Away with Jesus! Crucify Him! Crucify Him!

Then Pilate pleaded with the people, saying: What evil hath this man done? But the crowd, who had been excited by the enemies of Jesus, cried out all the more: Crucify Him! Crucify Him! If you release Him, you are no friend of Cæsar's. This frightened Pilate, for he was a coward. He was afraid his master, Cæsar, would take away his position. So he ordered a servant to bring him a basin of water, and, standing where all the people could see him, he washed his hands, saying: I am innocent of the blood of this just man. All the crowd who saw him washing his hands understood what he meant, and cried out: His blood be upon us and upon our children.

Then Pilate released Barabbas and delivered up

Jesus to the soldiers to be scourged. They took Him into the court-yard and stripped Him of His garments, and tying Him to a pillar, they beat Him with cruel lashes until all His skin was torn and bleeding.

When they were tired of scourging Jesus, they put a purple garment on Him and pressed a crown of thorns upon His head. Then they made Him sit on a stool and put a reed in His hand for a scepter, and each one of them in turn bowed before Him, saying: "Hail! king of the Jews!" They struck Him in the face and spat upon Him, and one of them took the reed out of His hand and struck the crown of thorns with it, so as to drive the cruel thorns into His head.

When Pilate sent for Jesus, the soldiers took off the purple rag and put His own garment on Him and led Him back to the judgment hall. When Pilate saw Jesus torn and bleeding, with His hands bound and a crown of thorns on His head, he was moved with pity. He thought the crowd would have compassion on Jesus now, and so he led Him out before them and said: Behold the man! He is innocent, and yet see how you have made Him suffer. But the angry crowd shouted



BEHOLD THE MAN—*Ciseri*

louder than ever: Crucify Him! Crucify Him! Even Pilate was disgusted, and turning to the priests he said: Take Him, you, and crucify Him, for I find no guilt in Him.

This made the chief priests very angry, and they said: We have a law according to which all blasphemers should die; and this man blasphemed, for He said He was the Son of God.

When Pilate heard this he was frightened, and leading Jesus back into the judgment hall, he asked

Him if it was true that He was the Son of God, but Jesus was silent. And Pilate said to Him: Will you not answer me? Do you not know that I have the power to crucify you or to release you? Jesus answered: Thou shouldst not have any power against me unless it were given to thee from above. Therefore, he that hath delivered me to thee hath the greater sin.

Pilate went out before the people once more and told them he would release Jesus, but the crowd cried out: If you release this man you are no friend of Cæsar's. Pilate feared they would accuse him to his master, and so he said: Shall I crucify your king? But the high priest answered: We have no king but Cæsar. Then Pilate delivered up Jesus to them to be crucified.



LEAVING PILATE'S HOUSE—*Doré*

THE PASSION

From the Roman Breviary

What cruel storms of grief and pain
 The gentle Jesus must sustain!
 He bears His cross to Calvary,
 And there they place Him on the tree.

With nails they nail Him to the wood,
 Our thorn-crowned King; His holy blood
 O'erflows from every wound, forlorn
 He hangs the sport of spite and scorn.

He weeps, He prays, aloud He cries,
 And yielding up the ghost, He dies;
 The mother feels the cruel blow,
 Her stainless heart is pierced with woe.

The rocks are rent, and quakes the earth,
From out the tombs the dead walk forth;
Dread darkness covers land and main;
The temple's veil is torn in twain.

Sun, moon, and stars in gloom are hurled,
The heavens moan, and groans the world;
O sinful man, in shame arise;
Behold, for thee the Saviour dies.

Here with His mother, stand and weep,
In tears his wounded members steep,
See, hand and foot and bleeding side,
And think, for love of man He died!

Victim of love! lo, Thou art slain,
From sin and shame our souls to gain;
To wash us in the sacred flood
Of Thy regenerating blood.

Our peace, our joy, be Thou, O Lord,
Our life, our hope, our sweet reward,
Our guide, our light upon the way,
To lead us unto endless day.

—*Tr. D. J. Donahoe*

JESUS IS CRUCIFIED

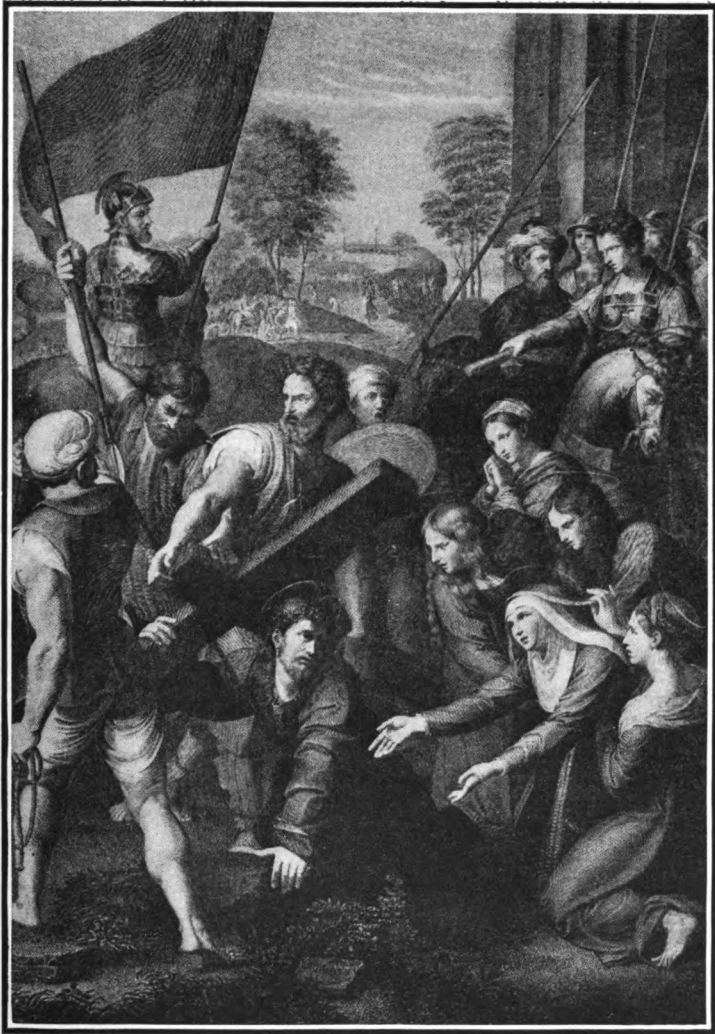
In the shadow of the rood
Love and Shame together stood;
Love, that bade Him bear the blame
Of her fallen sister, Shame;
Shame, that by the pangs thereof,
Bade Him break His heart for Love.

Father Tabb

The soldiers led Jesus forth from Pilate's house and placed a heavy wooden cross upon His shoulders. He was so weak from the scourging and from the loss of blood that He could scarcely carry His cross, and He fell under it twice. When He reached the city gate He was unable to carry it farther, and the soldiers made Simon of Cyrene help Him to carry the cross to Mount Calvary.

When Jesus reached the place where he was to be crucified, the soldiers gave Him wine mixed with gall to drink, but when He tasted it He would not drink it. Then the soldiers rudely tore off His garments, stretched Him on the cross, and drove big nails through His hands and feet. Over His head they put this sign: Jesus, King of the Jews.

After this the soldiers erected the cross on which



CHRIST CARRYING HIS CROSS—*Raphael*

Jesus was nailed. They also crucified two thieves, putting one at His right hand and the other at His left. The crowd began to mock Jesus, saying: If thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross! He saved others, but He cannot save Himself! If He is king of Israel, let Him come down from the cross, and we will believe Him!

Jesus lifted up His eyes to Heaven and said: *Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.*

One of the thieves joined the crowd in mocking and blaspheming Jesus, but the other thief said to him: Shame on you! We are getting what we deserve for our sins, but this man has done nothing wrong. Now, because of these kindly words spoken of Jesus in His suffering, God gave this thief grace to be sorry for his sins. He is known to all the world as the penitent thief. After rebuking the blasphemer, the penitent thief turned to Jesus and said: Lord, when Thou comest into Thy kingdom, remember me. And Jesus answered: *This day thou shalt be with me in Paradise.*

After this, Jesus saw His mother and John, the beloved disciple, standing near the foot of the cross, and He said: *Woman, behold thy son. Son, be-*

hold thy mother. And from this time forth, as long as the Blessed Virgin remained on earth, John took care of her as if she were his own mother.

Suddenly the sun was covered and it became as dark as night. After a time Jesus cried out: *My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me?* And again He said: *I thirst.* A man who was standing by dipped a sponge into vinegar, and putting it on the end of a reed, held it up to Our Lord's lips.

After having hung on the cross for three whole hours in agony, Our Saviour said: *It is finished. Father, into Thy hands I commend my spirit.* Thus Our Saviour finished the work of redemption which God promised Adam and Eve when He said that a descendant of Eve would crush the serpent's head. Our Saviour, having atoned for our sins and given us the last great proof of His love, gave a loud cry and yielded up His spirit into His Father's hands.

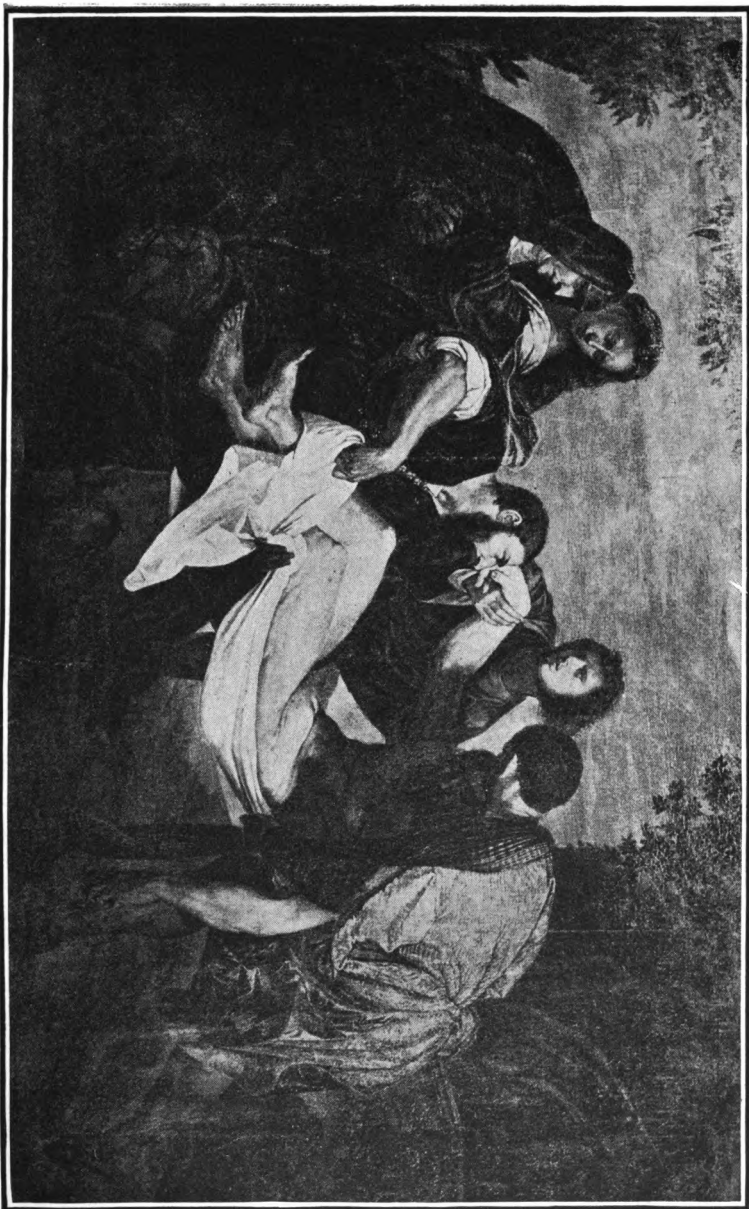
At the moment of Jesus' death there was a dreadful earthquake and the veil of the temple was torn from top to bottom. The rocks were split and graves were opened, and many holy people who had long been buried arose from their tombs. Then the sun suddenly shone out brightly.

The multitude was filled with fear and fled back to the city. The captain of the Roman soldiers cried out: Truly, this was a just man; this was indeed the Son of God. And all the soldiers cried out: Truly, this was the Son of God!

The priests in Jerusalem, who did not know that Jesus was dead, went to Pilate and asked him to have all those who were crucified killed before sundown, because it was the Sabbath of the Lord, on which it was forbidden to punish criminals.

In obedience to Pilate's orders, soldiers with big clubs came to Mount Calvary to kill the men who were hanging on the crosses. They broke the legs of the two thieves, but when they came to Jesus they found Him dead. One of the soldiers, to make sure He was dead, drove his lance into the side of Jesus, and when he drew it out blood mixed with water ran from the wound.

After this Joseph, a rich man from Arimathea, and Nicodemus, having obtained permission from Pilate, came to Mount Calvary and took Our Lord's body down from the cross. They wrapped the body in fine linen and carried it to a garden near by, in which there was a new tomb, which Joseph had hewn out of the solid rock. The Blessed Virgin



THE ENTOMBMENT—*Titian*

and the Apostles followed the body of Jesus and saw it laid away in the tomb. Mary arranged the body of her Son in its resting place, and having wept over Him, they all withdrew and a great stone was rolled against the mouth of the tomb.

The enemies of Jesus went to Pontius Pilate and told him that before Jesus died He had said that after three days He would rise from the dead. They asked Pilate to have the tomb guarded lest the disciples should steal away the body and say that Jesus had risen from the dead, as He had promised. Pilate ordered them to take soldiers and to guard the tomb so nobody should enter it.

CHRIST'S SACRIFICE

"He emptied Himself."

Is He alone at birth
 Due garb denied
 When all the looms of earth
 His power has plied?
 Must He go houseless, too,—
 Birds are more blest—
 'Neath all the nightly dew
 For Him no nest?
 Beg of the wayside corn
 His daily bread,
 The running stream not scorn
 With stooping head?

Till at the last His tree
Should yield Him all—
Bed, drink and garment free
Cross, blood and gall.

All things, for us to save,
He is denied:
Unto the last He gave,—
Lo, hands and side!

—*Charles L. O'Donnell, C. S. C.*

THOUGHTS FOR US

When Adam and Eve sinned they deserved death for themselves and for their children forever. Their disobedience closed the gates of Heaven against every human soul. We all inherit this sin from our First Parents; it is called original sin. The sins we commit ourselves are actual sins; they also make it impossible for us to go to Heaven.

No one but the Son of God could take upon himself the punishment which we deserve for our sins and obtain forgiveness from God for us. No one but the Son of God could open the gates of Heaven to us after they had been closed against us by the sin of our First Parents.

When God cast our First Parents out of Paradise He promised them a Redeemer, but it was thousands of years before the world was ready

to receive Our Saviour. During all that time only those who believed God's promise and hoped in the Redeemer to come were saved.

Before Our Lord came on earth God ordered sacrifices of sheep and of oxen to be made, but the blood of oxen could not take away our sins. Sacrificing the lives of animals, however, helped to make the people understand that sin deserved to be punished by death and that the Redeemer would die for us to take away our sins.

All the holy men and women who lived on earth before Our Lord came were saved through their belief in Him. When they died their souls went down into limbo; there they waited until Our Lord, through His death on the cross, obtained forgiveness for their sins and through His ascension opened the gates of Heaven to them.

The sacrifices of animals were pleasing in the sight of God, because they referred to the sacrifice of the cross, but after Our Saviour offered up His own life on the cross, God forbade any more sacrifices of animals to be made.

The sacrifice of the cross is the only perfect sacrifice that was ever offered to God. In this sacrifice the cross is the altar and Jesus is both

priest and victim. Jesus offered the sacrifice of His own life to God for the four great ends for which all sacrifices were offered; that is, to worship God, to thank Him for His gifts, to beg for new favors, and to atone for sins.

Jesus willingly died for us. All His enemies were made to bear witness to His innocence. Herod declared Him innocent. Pilate washed his hands before all the people to show them he believed Jesus was innocent and that he did not want to have anything to do with His punishment. The high priests had no accusation against Him but that He called Himself the Son of God. Even the Roman soldiers were made to say He was innocent and that He was the Son of God.

All the dreadful suffering of Jesus was caused by our sins. And from the story of His passion and death we should learn how wicked sin is and resolve never to be guilty of it.

QUESTIONS

*What did the enemies of Jesus accuse Him of?
Did they know He was God?*

Why did they not understand Jesus when He proved that He was the Son of God?

Why did the priests and so many of the people hate Our Saviour?

Did Pilate think Our Saviour was guilty of any fault?

Why did he condemn Jesus to death?

What did Herod say about Our Saviour?

How did the soldiers treat Our Lord?

What did they do to Him in the court-yard of Pilate's house?

What did Pilate do to show the people that he believed Jesus to be innocent?

Why was the high priest more guilty than Pilate?

Why was Jesus unable to carry His cross all the way to Calvary?

Who helped Jesus to carry His cross?

What did the people say while Jesus was hanging on the cross?

What did each of the thieves say?

What did Our Saviour say to the penitent thief?

What did Jesus say to His mother and to St. John?

What else did Jesus say when He was hanging on the cross?

*What happened to the sun while Our Saviour
was hanging on the cross?*

What happened when Our Saviour died?

What did the crowd do?

What did the soldiers say?

*What did the soldiers do whom Pilate sent to
Calvary with clubs?*

*Who took Our Lord's body down from the
cross?*

Where did they lay it?

Who arranged the body in the tomb?

Who caused the tomb to be guarded?

Why did they do this?

*For what ends was the sacrifice of the cross
offered?*

What was the altar for this sacrifice?

Who was the priest? Who was the victim?

THE PASSION OF OUR LORD

St. Bonaventure

Lord, Thy death upon the tree
Brings uplifting thoughts to me,
Calm of mind and holy fire,
Love of God and pure desire.

O to bear in memory
All thy grief and obloquy,
Holy Christ, Thy thorny wreath,
Spear and nails and crucial death!

All these blessed wounds of Thine,
Witness of Thy love divine,
Cruel scourging and distress,
Of the mortal bitterness.

Lord, the thought is of such dole,
So intoxicates the soul,
That we bow in tearful prayers;
But what glorious fruit it bears!

Lo, before Thee, crucified,
Sink all selfishness and pride;
Loud to Thee, dear Christ we cry;
Join us with Thy saints on high.

Honor, praise and glory bring
Unto Jesus, Heavenly King,
Who, all pure and faultless, gave
His sweet life our lives to save.

—*Tr. D. J. Donahoe*

JESUS RISES FROM THE DEAD

EARTH'S TRIBUTE

First the grain, and then the blade—
The one destroyed, the other made;
Then stalk and blossom, and again
The gold of newly minted grain.

So Life, by Death the reaper cast
To earth, again shall rise at last;
For 'tis the service of the sod
To render God the things of God.

—*Father Tabb*

Early on Easter Sunday morning, which was the third day after that on which Our Saviour died on the cross, the earth shook and an angel of the Lord descended from Heaven and rolled back the stone from the mouth of the tomb and sat upon it. The soldiers who were keeping guard over the tomb were frightened and fled.

And behold, the tomb was empty, for Jesus had risen and left it while it was still closed. The angel's face glowed like lightning and his garments were as white as snow.

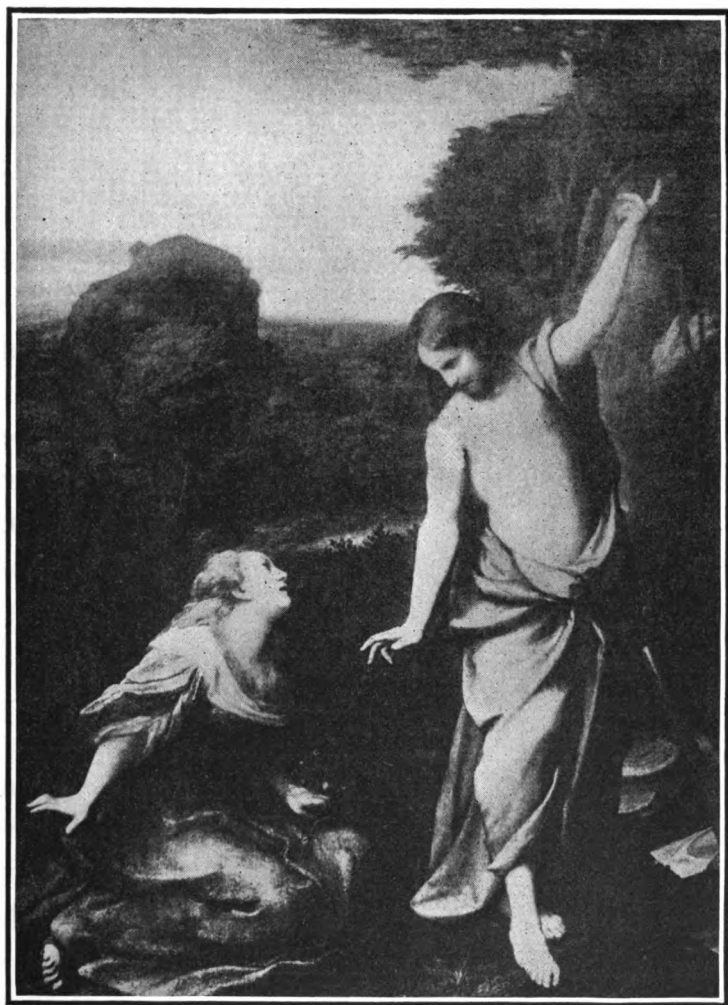
The three holy women were on their way to the tomb with sweet spices to anoint the body of Jesus. They asked each other who would help them roll

back the stone from the mouth of the tomb. But when they reached the garden they saw the stone rolled back. Mary Magdalen thought some one had stolen the body of Jesus and she ran back to tell the Apostles. On her way she met St. Peter and St. John and told them that the tomb was empty.

Mary Cleophas and Salome went to the tomb, and as they entered into it they saw an angel sitting at one side, and he said to them: Fear not, you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen; He is not here. Come and see the place where they laid Him. Go quickly and tell Peter and the other Apostles that He is risen from the dead and that He will go before them into Galilee, where they shall see Him, as He foretold them.

The holy women ran back quickly to tell the Apostles the glorious news, that Jesus had risen from the dead. In the meanwhile, St. Peter and St. John reached the tomb; they saw the place where Jesus was laid and the linen wherein He had been wrapped, and they went back to tell the other disciples that the body was not in the tomb.

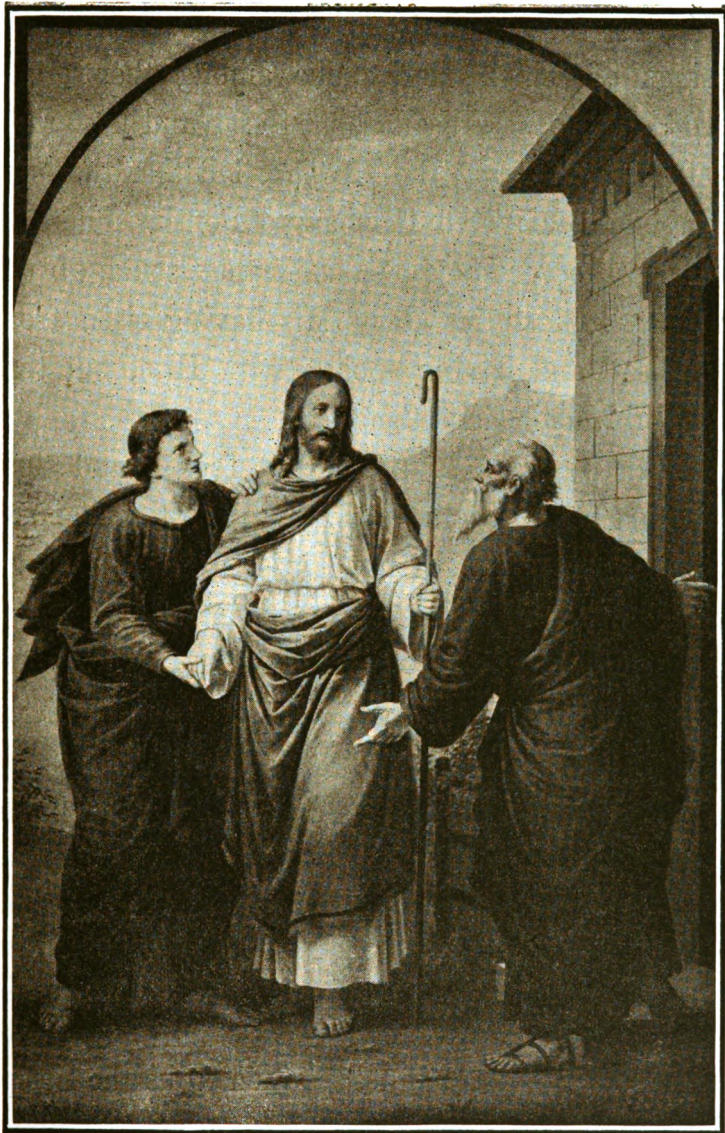
After Mary Magdalen gave her message to St. Peter and St. John, she returned to the tom!



JESUS AND MAGDALEN—*Correggio*

When she looked into it she saw two angels all in white where the body had been laid. They said to her: Woman, why weepest thou? And Mary answered because they have taken away the body of my Lord, and I know not where they have laid Him. Just then a man standing beside her said: Why weepest thou? Whom dost thou seek? And without looking up, Mary answered: Sir, if you have taken Him away, tell me where you have laid Him and I will go and carry Him away. The man said to her: Mary. And Mary recognized the voice of Jesus, and threw herself at his feet, crying, Master! And Jesus said to her: Touch me not, for I am not yet gone up to my Father, but go and find my brethren and say to them: I go up unto my Father and your Father, to my Lord and your Lord. And Mary went back to the Apostles and told what she had seen and heard.

When the holy women told the Apostles that Jesus was risen from the dead, they did not believe them. Two of the disciples set out that same day for a town called Emmaus, and while they walked together and talked about the things that had happened, Jesus joined them, and they did not know Him. He asked them what were the



ON THE WAY TO EMMAUS—*Furst*

things of which they spoke among themselves. And they told Him all about Jesus and how they had hoped He was the Messiah, but that the high priest had delivered Him up to Pontius Pilate to be crucified. They also said that some of the women told stories about His having risen from the dead and having spoken with Him, but that they did not believe them.

Then Jesus said to them: O foolish and slow of heart to believe in all things which the prophets have spoken. Ought not Christ to have suffered these things and so to enter into His glory? And, beginning at Moses and all the prophets, He explained to them all the things that were written concerning the Christ.

When evening came, He went into the house with them, and as He sat at table He took bread and blessed and broke and gave it to them. And then their eyes were opened and they knew Him, and He vanished from their sight. And they said one to another, was not our heart burning within us whilst He spoke and explained to us the Scriptures?

RESURRECTION

The seed that falleth in the ground
 Must die, become as naught,
 Before the virtue in it found
 Yield up the harvest sought.

E'en Christ who is of life the Lord
 Gave up the body's breath,
 With God's great law in meet accord,
 To quicken by His death.

And so, my heart, thy flame must die,
 Thyself must broken be—
 Alone when love doth shattered lie
 Cometh love's victory.

—*Charles L. O'Donnell, C. S. C.*

THOUGHTS FOR US

When Our Saviour was on earth He preached to the people and told them what they must believe in order to go to Heaven. After His crucifixion, while His body rested in the tomb, He went down into Limbo to preach to the holy souls who were waiting there for Him. This is what we mean in the Apostles' Creed when we say, He descended into hell.

Before Our Saviour's death He told all those who wanted a proof from Him that He was the Son of God that He would die and after three days

come back to life. But the people did not understand what He meant. They thought He referred to some mystery. When Christ rose from the dead even His Apostles could hardly believe it until they saw Him with their own eyes.

QUESTIONS

What happened at the tomb on Easter Sunday morning?

What did the soldiers do?

Who were the holy women?

To whom did the angels appear?

To whom did Our Saviour first speak?

What message did He give to Mary Magdalen?

Where did the holy people go who died before Our Saviour was crucified?

What do we mean when we say that Jesus descended into hell?

When Jesus went into the house at Emmaus with His disciples, how did they recognize Him?

What did the breaking of bread remind them of?

PART III

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

“And when the Children of Israel saw it, they said one to another: Manhu! which means: What is this! for they knew not what it was. And Moses said to them: This is the bread, which the Lord hath given you to eat.”

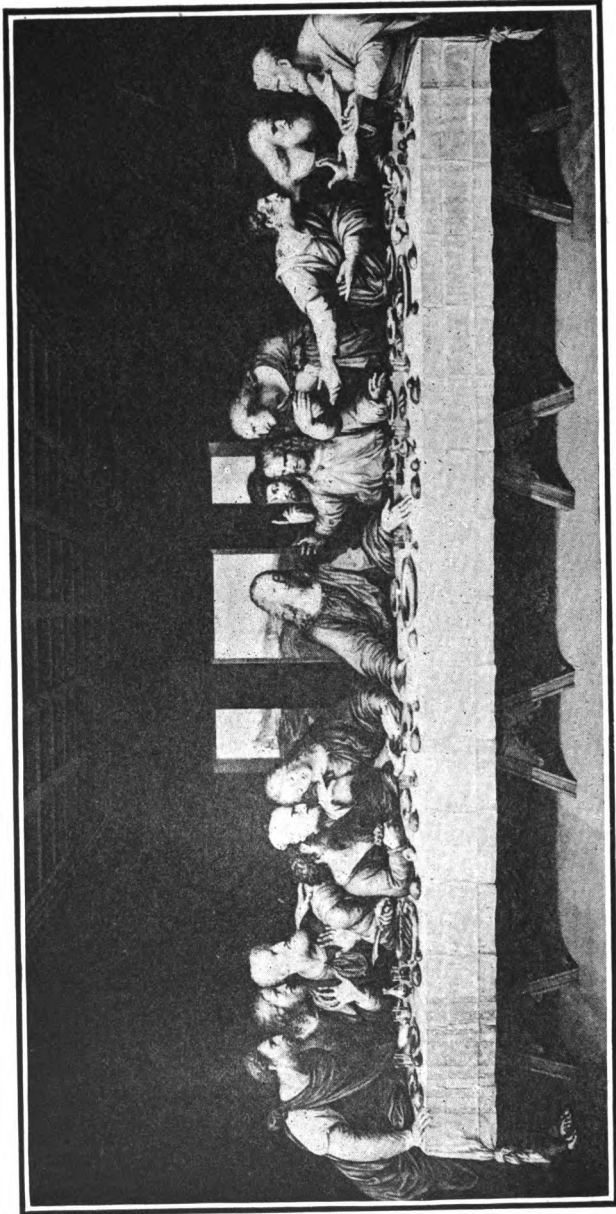
—Ex. XVI, 15.

“I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus, on the night in which he was betrayed, took bread, and giving thanks, brake it, and said: Take and eat: this is My Body, which shall be delivered for you: this do for the commemoration of Me. In like manner also he took the cup, after the supper, saying: This cup is the new covenant in My Blood. This do ye, as often as ye shall drink, for the commemoration of Me. For as often as ye shall eat this bread, and drink the cup, ye shall show the death of the Lord, until He come.”

—I Cor. XI, 23-26.

*Prayer from the Roman Breviary for the Feast of
Corpus Christi*

O God, who under a wonderful Sacrament has left us a memorial of Thy Passion: grant us, we beseech Thee, so to venerate the sacred mysteries of Thy Body and Blood that we may ever feel within us the fruit of Thy Redemption. Who livest and reignest world without end.
Amen.



THE LAST SUPPER—*Da Vinci*

LAUDA SION

St. Thomas Aquinas

Sing aloud, O Sion, praising
Christ, thy Royal Shepherd, raising
Hymns of love and songs of joy;
Let the music sound forever,
Never ceasing, tiring never,
All thy powers of praise employ.

Lo, the theme of all thanksgiving,
Vivifying bread and living,
On the holy altar shown!
Yea, the selfsame bread of heaven,
At the sacred supper given
To the twelve by Christ the Son.

Sing aloud in song sonorous,
Sing His praise in swelling chorus,
Sing in love and sweet accord;
Men of every race and nation
Hold the feast of Christ's creation
Founded by His holy word.

Lo, the King upon His table
Lays a pasch more new and stable,
Ending every ancient rite;
Older laws give place to newer,
Shadows fly, and worship truer,
Cometh with the wondrous light

And to-day, as Christ ordaineth,
 To His memory still remaineth
 Joy, descending from above,
 Still remain for our salvation
 Bread and wine in consecration,
 Making earth a home of love.

To the faithful Jesus giveth,
 In His love, this truth that liveth,—
 To His blood is changed the wine;
 Bread unto His body turneth;
 Man by living faith discerneth
 All the mystery divine.

Here, two different species under,
 Hides in signs awaking wonder,
 Christ's best gift, most excellent,—
 From His flesh and blood He giveth
 Food and drink; in each He liveth
 Whole within the Sacrament.

Never by partaking groweth
 Less the gift which He bestoweth,
 Comes to all the sweet reward;
 Whether single or in union,
 Few or thousands at Communion,
 Every soul receives the Lord.

And the good and bad receive Him,
 They who doubt and who believe Him;
 But with what a different end!
 To the worthy soul, salvation;
 To the impenitent, damnation,—
 Death to foe and life to friend.

Though the Sacrament ye sever
Into fragments, fear ye never,
In each part remaineth ever
 What the whole contained before;
In the sign alone obtaineth
Change; but as the Lord ordaineth,
He, the Signified, remaineth
 Whole and perfect evermore.

Lo, the bread of angels, bearing
Strength to souls in sorrow wearing,
With the sons of mercy sharing,
 Not the unregenerate;
Food prefigured and foretold in
Sacred signs and symbols olden,
Bringing unto man the golden
 Hour of glory consecrate.

Gentle Jesus, Shepherd tender,
Bread of life, in mercy render
Peace, and blessed hope engender;
Saviour be our sure defender,
 Make us worthy of Thy love;
Thou all-knowing and all-heeding
Save Thy flock with care and feeding;
Let us follow in Thy leading,
Hear us in our earnest pleading,
 Guide us to the fold above.

—*Tr. D. J. Donahoe*

BREAD AND WINE

Before Our Lord came on earth God sent many prophets and holy men to His Chosen People to prepare them for the coming of the Redeemer. These prophets explained how Jesus was going to die on the cross to redeem the world.

Isaias, one of the greatest of the prophets, saw in a vision Our Lord's death many hundred years before Jesus was born. He describes Our Lord as a man of sorrow and of much suffering, and adds: Surely He hath borne our infirmities and carried our sorrows; and He seemed as one struck by God and afflicted. He was wounded for our wickedness and He was bruised for our sins. He suffered the punishment which we deserved for our sins, and by His bruises we are healed.

All we, like sheep, have gone astray. Every one hath turned aside into his own way. And God hath laid on Him the wickedness of us all. He was offered as a sacrifice, because it was His own will and He opened not His mouth. He shall be led as a sheep to the slaughter and shall be dumb as a lamb before his shearer. He hath done no wrong;

neither was there deceit in His mouth. And God was pleased to bruise Him in suffering.

This is the story of Our Lord's death, written by a prophet long before Jesus was born. God showed Isaias the way in which He was going to redeem the world through the death of His Son Jesus, just as He showed Joseph the meaning of Pharaoh's dream. By believing in Joseph's explanation of his dream, Pharaoh saved all the people from starvation. And by believing in the death of Christ, the people who lived before that time were saved from the death which they deserved by their sins.

The Sacrifice of the Cross is continued for us in the Sacrifice of the Mass. Through the Mass we all receive the benefits of the Sacrifice of the Cross. God also showed Isaias the way in which the Sacrifice of the Mass would continue the Sacrifice of the Cross throughout the whole world. And He made Isaias say: A clean oblation shall be offered to God throughout the whole world from the rising of the sun to the going down thereof.

God showed the people of the olden time, in many other ways, that the Sacrifice of the Mass would be instituted. Thus at one time a great battle was fought near the place where Abraham lived.

Abraham's nephew was taken captive. Lot's family and the wives and children and property of the kings who were Abraham's neighbors were also carried away.

When the news of this battle was brought to Abraham, he took his servants with him and went in haste after the robbers. He prayed to God, and God helped him to defeat the enemy and to get back the wives and children and all the stolen property. Abraham brought all this booty back to the King's Vale. Here Melchisedeck, the King of Salem, met him and offered up a sacrifice of bread and wine.



ABRAHAM AND MELCHISEDECK—*Raphael*

Now, Melchisedeck was both a king and a priest of God, and he said: Blessed be Abraham by the most high God who made heaven and earth. It is by His protection that our enemies are in Abraham's hands.

This was a sacrifice of thanksgiving to God for His great mercy. By it Melchisedeck expressed the truth publicly that it was God who helped Abraham to get back the stolen property and that it was He who restored freedom to the women and children. Moreover, God directed Melchisedeck to offer this sacrifice of bread and wine that it might help us to understand the Sacrifice of the Mass. In the Mass the bread and wine are first offered to God; then, through the power of Jesus Christ, the bread and wine are changed into the body and blood of Christ, which were sacrificed for us on the cross.

In like manner, when the Paschal lamb was sacrificed, the people ate it and the blood on the doorposts saved them from death, while the flesh of the lamb strengthened them for their journey out of Egypt. God ordered this sacrifice to be repeated every year, so that the people might learn how Christ would save us by shedding His blood for us on the cross and how He would strengthen us by giving us His flesh to eat in Holy Communion.

God also directed that unleavened bread should be eaten with the Paschal lamb. This reminded the people of the hurry with which the Children of Israel left Egypt when they had no time to let the bread rise. And it also reminds us of the unleavened bread which is changed into the body and blood of Christ in the Mass and given to us as food for our souls in Holy Communion.

When the Hebrews crossed through the Red Sea into the desert, all their food was eaten up and they were hungry. Then they came to Moses and begged for food, and at his request God gave them manna from Heaven. Every morning for forty years manna enough for the day was found on the ground. The manna was as white as snow and as sweet as honey. It reminds us of the bread under the outward appearance of which Christ gives us His flesh to eat during all the years of our journey through this world until we come at last to Heaven.

When Jesus began to teach the people the way to Heaven He worked many miracles. The first of these miracles took place at the wedding of Cana, when, at His mother's request, He changed water into wine. Whenever we read of this miracle we are reminded of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass

in which Jesus, speaking through the lips of the priest, changes the bread and wine into His own body and blood.

Our Lord multiplied the loaves and fishes and fed the multitude, and when they all had eaten enough there was more left than there was in the beginning. Similarly, Our Lord gives each of us His body and blood in Holy Communion and yet He remains undiminished on our altars to be the food of all who will be saved, even to the end of the world.

QUESTIONS

Who prepared the people for the coming of Christ?

Who sent the prophets? What did they teach?

What did Isaias say of Our Lord's death?

When did Isaias live?

How did he know about the manner in which Christ would die?

How were the people who lived before Christ saved?

How do we receive the benefits of Christ's death on the cross?

Did the prophets know about the sacrifice of the Mass?

What did Isaias say about the Mass?

Who was Melchisedeck?

What kind of a sacrifice did he offer?

Why did he offer it?

What did he say to Abraham?

What did Melchisedeck express by the sacrifice of bread and wine?

Why did God direct Melchisedeck to offer this sacrifice?

What happens to the bread and wine in the Mass?

What did the blood of the Paschal lamb do for the Hebrews?

What did the flesh of the Paschal lamb do for the Hebrews?

Why did God order the sacrifice of the Paschal lamb to be celebrated every year?

What does the unleavened bread which was eaten with the Paschal lamb remind us of?

What did God give the Children of Israel to eat during the forty years of their wandering in the desert?

What was manna like?

What does it remind us of?

What is the first miracle that Our Lord performed?

What does it remind us of?

What does the miracle of the loaves and fishes remind us of?

THE RAVEN BUILDS HER NEST ON HIGH

The raven builds her nest on high,
 The loud winds rock her craving brood,
 The forest echoes to their cry:
 Who gives the ravens food?

The lion goeth forth to roam
 Wild sandy hills and plains among,
 He leaves his little whelps at home:
 Who feeds the lion's young?

God hears the hungry lions howl,
 He feeds the raven hoarse and gray;
 Cares He alone for beast and fowl?
 Are we less dear than they?

Nay, Christian child, kneel down and own
 The Hand that feeds thee day by day,
 Nor careless with thy lip alone,
 For "all things needful" pray.

Then not alone for earthly food
 Teach us with lisping tongue to pray—
 The Heavenly meat that makes us good,
 Lord, give us day by day.

—*Mrs. Cecil Frances Alexander*

THE PROMISE

After Our Lord had fed the multitude with the loaves and fishes He calmed the storm on the Sea of Galilee and saved His frightened disciples from being drowned. The next day the people found Him on the other side of the lake. They asked Him how He came there, for they knew He did not go into the boat with His disciples the evening before.

Jesus said to them: Amen, amen I say to you, you seek me, not because you have seen miracles, but because you did eat of the loaves and were filled. Labor not for the meat which perisheth, but for that which endureth unto life everlasting, which the Son of Man will give you.

Our Saviour then explained to them how all who are to be saved must believe in the truths which He taught and how they must eat of His flesh and drink of His blood. Then He continued in these words:

Amen, amen I say unto you, he that believeth in me hath everlasting life. I am the bread of life. Your fathers did eat manna in the desert, and are dead. This is the bread which cometh

down from Heaven; that if any man eat of it, he may not die. I am the living bread which came down from Heaven. If any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh, for the life of the world.

The Jews, therefore, strove among themselves, saying: How can this man give us His flesh to eat? And Jesus said to them: Amen, amen I say unto you: except you eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink His blood, you shall not have life in you. He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is meat indeed: and my blood is drink indeed. He that eateth my flesh and drinketh my blood, abideth in me and I in him. As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father; so he that eateth me, the same also shall live by me. This is the bread that came down from Heaven. Not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead. He that eateth this bread shall live forever.

The people did not understand how Our Lord could give them His flesh to eat, and some of them thought He did not mean what He said. Then Jesus said to them: Do you find it hard while I

am here with you to believe that I will give you my flesh to eat and my blood to drink? How then will you be able to believe it after you shall have seen me ascend up into Heaven? Faith is a gift from God, and unless you have this gift you cannot come unto me. After this many of the people went away and walked no more with Jesus.

Then Jesus said to the twelve: Will you also go away? And Simon Peter answered Him: Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life and we have believed and have known that Thou art Christ, the Son of God.

THE NEW PASCH

St. Thomas Aquinas

Sing, my tongue, the saving story,
 Earth's redeeming mystery sing;
 Sing the blood, that fount of glory,
 Shed by man's all gracious King,—
 Blessed be the womb that bore Thee,
 Thou, that camest, our hope to bring.

Given while yet the young creation
 Sang with all the stars of morn,
 Jesus came for our salvation,
 From a stainless virgin born;
 And His closing ordination
 Doth the world with love adorn.

At the paschal table leaning
 He, beside His chosen band,—
 Words of wonder intervening,
 While He closed the law's command—
 Kept the pasch with newer meaning
 Gave Himself with His own hand.

By His word the bread He breaketh
 To His very flesh He turns;
 In the chalice which He taketh,
 Man the cleansing blood discerns,—
 Faith to loving bosom maketh
 Clear the mystic truth she learns.

Let us then this rite of wonder
 With our prostrate souls adore;
 Let each ancient law surrender
 To the Christ forevermore,
 To the Saviour sweet and tender,
 Fount of grace, of love the store.

To the Father's glory leading,
 Sound of holy jubilee;
 To the Son, our sorrows heeding,
 Sing the love that made us free,
 To the Lord from both proceeding
 Let the selfsame praises be.

—*Tr. D. J. Donahoe*

THE LAST SUPPER

From the time Jesus was twelve years old He went up to Jerusalem every year to celebrate the Pasch. But the last spring Our Lord was on earth, He hesitated about going up to Jerusalem, for the city was full of His enemies. And when the day came for the celebration of the feast of the Pasch Jesus

said to St. Peter and St. John: Go into the city and prepare for us the Paschal lamb, that we may eat it to-night. But they were afraid Our Saviour would not be safe, so they asked Him where they should prepare to celebrate the feast.

And He said to them: Behold, as you go into the city, there shall meet you a man carrying a pitcher of water. Follow him into the house where he entereth in, and you shall say to the good man of the house: The Master sayeth to thee, where is the guest chamber, where I may eat the Pasch with my disciples? And he will show you a large dining room, furnished, and there prepare. And they, going, found as He had said to them and made ready the Pasch.

And when the hour was come, He sat down and the twelve Apostles with Him, and He said to them: With desire I have desired to eat this Pasch with you, before I suffer. For I say to you that from this time I will not eat it, till it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God.

After the Paschal lamb had been eaten *He took bread in His holy and venerable hands, and with eyes lifted up towards Heaven, unto Thee, O God, His Almighty Father, giving thanks to Thee, did bless, break, and give unto His disciples, saying:*

Take, and eat ye all of this, for this is My Body. In like manner, after supper, taking also this excellent chalice into His holy and venerable hands: and giving thanks to Thee, He blessed and gave to His disciples, saying: Take, and drink ye all of it. For this is the chalice of my blood of the new and eternal testament: the mystery of faith; which shall be shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. As often as ye do these things, ye shall do them in remembrance of me.

These are the words which the priest says at the Consecration in the Mass. And when he says them, the bread and wine are immediately changed into the body and blood of Jesus Christ.



COMMUNION IN THE VILLAGE—*Salmson*

EASTER COMMUNION

The mystery of mysteries!
 Now let the pure in heart draw nigh
 While every pulse is beating high
 With love and holy fear;
 For Christ has risen at the break of day
 And bids us from the world away
 And haste to meet Him here.

The mystery of mysteries!
 The angels and archangels come
 On wings of light from out their home
 In ranks of glory wheeling:
 Our souls shall mix and blend with theirs
 In loud thank-offerings and prayers,
 Before the altar kneeling.

The mystery of mysteries!
 The dead and living shall be one,
 And thrills of fiery transport run
 With sweeter power through all;
 For one in heart and faith are we
 And moulded one, our Head, through Thee,
 The Body mystical!

—*Father Faber*

THOUGHTS FOR US

It was on Holy Thursday night that Our Lord ate the Last Supper with His Apostles. Many wonderful things happened at that supper. It was there He ordained His Apostles to be the first bishops of His Church. It was there He instituted

the Sacrifice of the Mass and the Sacrifice of the Holy Eucharist. The Apostles did not understand what Our Lord meant on that day following the miracle of the loaves and fishes when He said: Unless you eat my flesh and drink my blood you shall not have life in you. They did not know how Our Lord was going to keep this promise of giving them His flesh to eat and His blood to drink, but they believed in Him and waited patiently for Him to fulfill this strange promise.

At the Last Supper the time had come, and those who had faith in the promise of Our Lord were rewarded, for when Jesus said, this is my body, the bread was changed into His flesh; and when He took the chalice of wine into His hands and said, this is my blood, the wine was changed into His blood.

After Our Lord's words of consecration the bread and wine looked just the same as they did before, but they were no longer bread and wine; they were really the body and blood of Christ, which He gave to His Apostles to eat and drink.

The body and blood of Christ in the Holy Eucharist are the same body and blood that were sacrificed for us on the cross. When the bread

and wine are consecrated separately and offered to God in this manner, the sacrifice is called the Mass, or the unbloody sacrifice of Calvary.

When Our Lord said to His Apostles, do this for a remembrance of me, He ordained them and gave to them and to their successors the power to change bread and wine into His body and blood. Bishops and priests to the present day exercise this power every time they say Mass. Through the Sacrifice of the Mass we all share in the Sacrifice of the Cross. In Holy Communion we are united with Our Saviour and His precious body and blood make us holy and pleasing to God. And Jesus has promised that He will raise from the dead on the Last Day all those who are united to Him, and that He will take them to Heaven with Him.

QUESTIONS

When the people followed Our Saviour to the other side of the sea, what did He say to them?

What is the true Bread that came down from Heaven?

What will happen to us if we do not eat Our Lord's flesh and drink His blood?

What will happen to those who eat His flesh and drink His blood?

What did the people do when Our Lord told them that they must eat His flesh and drink His blood?

Who could come to Jesus and believe in Him?

What did the Apostles say when Our Lord asked them if they also would go away?

When did Our Lord eat the Last Supper with the Apostles?

What did He say to them when they were all together in the supper room?

How did Our Lord change the bread and wine into His own body and blood?

How did Our Lord institute the Sacrifice of the Mass?

How did He institute the Holy Eucharist?

When did He ordain His Apostles?

HYMN FOR THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

St. Thomas Aquinas

The Word at God's right hand came forth,
 And shining still as God on high,
 Descended to the gloom of earth,
 For man's redemption doomed to die.

Betrayed by one He loved, and led
 To cruel death at treason's hand,
 Upon that latest eve, He fed,
 With His own flesh the chosen band.

He giveth in its twofold kind
 The saving flesh, the cleansing blood,
 That every man His love may find,
 And fill his soul with heavenly food.

Born man, He makes Himself our kin,
 He gives His body at the board,
 He dies and is the price of sin,
 He reigns, and is our sweet reward.

O Fount of Life! O Saving Host,
 That Heaven's high door hast open laid,
 War presses hard, her hope is lost
 Without Thy strength and powerful aid.

Omnipotent Triunity,
 To Thee be endless glory given;
 Grant us eternal life with Thee
 In our sweet fatherland of Heaven.

—*Tr. D. J. Donahoe*

PART IV

GOD WITH US

“Behold I send my angel, and he shall prepare the way before my face. And presently the Lord, whom you seek, and the angel of the testament, whom you desire, shall come to his temple. Behold he cometh, sayeth the Lord of hosts.”—Mal. III, 1.

“They carried Him to Jerusalem, to present Him to the Lord. . . . And to offer a sacrifice, according as it is written in the law of the Lord, a pair of turtle doves, or two young pigeons.”

Prayer from the Roman Missal for the Feast of the Purification.

Almighty and Everlasting God, we humbly beseech thy Majesty that as Thine Only-begotten Son with the substance of flesh was presented in the temple, so Thou wouldst cause us, with purified hearts, to be presented unto Thee. Through the same Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Our Lord. Amen.



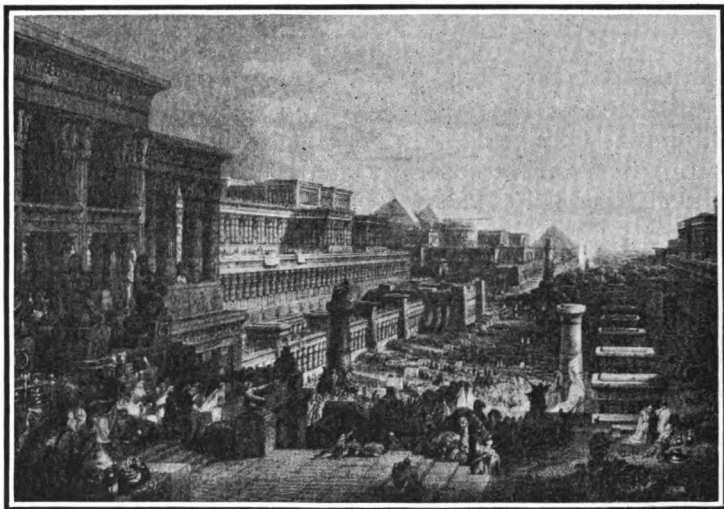
PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE

ACROSS THE RED SEA

I am the Lord thy God, who brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt not have strange Gods before me.—*Exodus XX*, 1-2.

God's real home is in Heaven, where all who love and obey Him in this world shall one day see Him face to face. But God is also present in this world. He created Heaven and earth and all things, and He is present everywhere. He is in the winds and in the sunbeams. He makes the flowers to bloom and the birds to sing. He is with us always and sees everything we do and knows all our thoughts. But we cannot see Him, because He is a pure spirit.

Before God brought the Children of Israel out of Egypt He had no special home on earth. From time to time He appeared to His chosen servants and told them what to do to save themselves and all the people who trusted in them. He walked with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. He spoke to Moses out of the burning bush on Mount Horeb and told him all the things he must do so that Pharaoh would let the Children of Israel go with him out into the wilderness.



LEAVING EGYPT

And when the Children of Israel departed out of the land of Egypt, the Lord went before them to show them the way by day in a pillar of cloud and by night in a pillar of fire, that He might be the guide of their journey at both times. There never failed the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night before the people.

And after the Children of Israel had reached the shores of the Red Sea, Pharaoh was sorry that he let them go. So he made ready his chariot and took all his people with him. And there went with him all the chariots that were in Egypt and

the captains of the whole army. When Pharaoh and his army drew near, the Children of Israel feared exceedingly, but Moses said to them: Fear not, you shall see the great wonders which the Lord will do for you this day. And the Egyptians whom you now see you shall see no more forever. The Lord will fight for you and you shall hold your peace.

And the Lord said to Moses: Speak to the Children of Israel and tell them to go forward. Lift thou up thy rod and stretch forth thy hand over the sea, and divide it: that the Children of Israel may go through the midst of the sea on dry ground.

And Moses did as God had commanded him. And the pillar of fire moved around behind the camp of Israel, and it was a dark cloud that kept the Egyptians from coming near the Children of Israel. And when Moses had stretched forth his hand over the sea, the Lord took the water away by a strong and burning wind blowing all the night and turned the sea into dry ground and the water was divided. And the Children of Israel went in through the midst of the sea dried up, for the water was a wall on their right hand and on their left.

And the Egyptians pursuing went in after them, and all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots and horsemen through the midst of the sea. And now the morning watch was come, and behold the Lord, looking upon the Egyptian army through the pillar of fire and the cloud, slew their host. And He overthrew the wheels of the chariots, and they were carried into the deep.

And the Egyptians said, let us flee from Israel, for the Lord fighteth for them against us. And the Lord said to Moses: Stretch forth thy hand over the sea, that the water may come again upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and horsemen. And when Moses had stretched forth his hand toward the sea, it returned at the first break of day to the former place. And as the Egyptians were fleeing away, the waters came upon them, and the Lord shut them up in the middle of the waves. And the waters returned, and covered the chariots and the horsemen of all the army of Pharaoh, who had come into the sea after them; neither did there so much as one of them remain.

But the Children of Israel marched through the midst of the sea upon dry land, and the waters were to them as a wall on the right hand and on



EGYPTIANS DROWNED IN THE RED SEA—*Doré*

the left: and the Lord delivered Israel on that day out of the hands of the Egyptians. And they saw the Egyptians dead upon the seashore, and the mighty hand that the Lord had used against them: and the people feared the Lord and they believed in the Lord, and in Moses, His servant.

Then Moses and the Children of Israel sang this canticle to the Lord, and said: Let us sing to the Lord, for He is gloriously magnified, the horse and the rider He hath thrown into the sea. The Lord is

my strength and my praise, and He is become salvation to me; He is my God and I will glorify Him: the God of my father, and I will exalt Him.

Sound the loud timbrel o'er Egypt's dark sea!
 Jehovah has triumphed—His people are free.
 Sing—for the pride of the tyrant is broken,
 His chariots and horsemen, all splendid and brave,
 How vain was their boasting! The Lord hath but spoken,
 And chariots and horsemen are sunk in the wave;
 Sound the loud timbrel o'er Egypt's dark sea,
 Jehovah has triumphed, His people are free!

Praise to the Conqueror, praise to the Lord,
 His word was our arrow, His breath was our sword!—
 Who shall return to tell Egypt the story
 Of those she sent forth in the hour of her pride?
 For the Lord hath looked out from His pillar of glory,
 And all her brave thousands are dash'd in the tide;
 Sound the loud timbrel o'er Egypt's dark sea,
 Jehovah has triumphed, His people are free!

—*Thomas Moore*

MOUNT SINAI

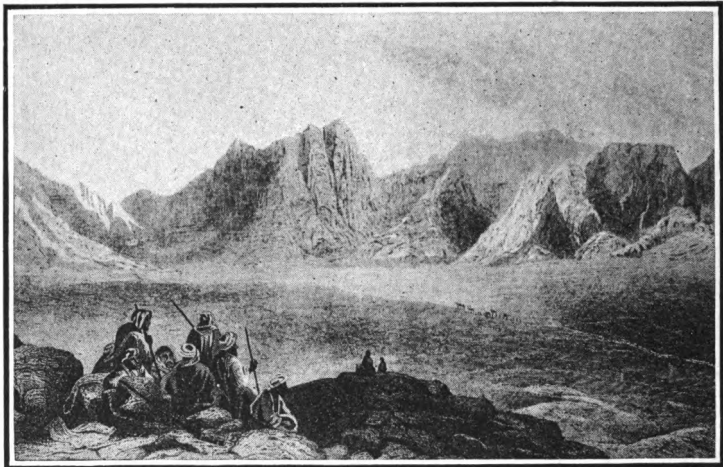
After the Children of Israel crossed through the Red Sea, God led them through the desert to the foot of Mount Sinai. He went before them in a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. When they were hungry they went to Moses, and in answer to his prayer God gave them to eat bread from Heaven, called manna.



MOSES STRIKING THE ROCK—*Murillo*

At one time, while they were still out in the desert, the men and the cattle were dying of thirst, and in answer to the prayer of Moses, God made a fountain of water flow out of the solid rock.

After traveling over the sands of the desert for three months, the Children of Israel arrived at last at the foot of Mount Sinai. Here God spoke to Moses and told him that He would give him laws for the people, so that they might always know what He wanted them to do. And He promised that, if the people obeyed these laws, He would make them His Chosen People and lead them into the Land which He had promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and their children forever.



MOUNT SINAI—*Bartlett*

When Moses told the people all that God had said to him, they thanked God and promised that they would obey all the laws which He would give them. Then God said to Moses: I will come to thee in the darkness of a cloud before all the people, and they shall hear me speaking to thee, and they will believe thee forever. Tell them to be ready for my coming in three days.

On the morning of the third day Mount Sinai was covered with a black cloud, in which thunder rolled and lightning flashed. And there was heard the long continued sound of a great trumpet. Smoke rose up from the sides of the mountain, as



RECEIVING THE LAW

—*Raphael*

from a furnace, and all the mountain trembled and was terrible to look at.

Then the Lord came down in a flame of fire on the top of Mount Sinai, and in a loud voice called Moses to Him. The people heard God speaking to Moses and they saw the flames and the smoke. They were filled with fear, and, standing afar off, they said to Moses: Speak thou to us and we will hear; let not the Lord speak to us lest we die.

Moses went up to the top of the mountain and remained there with God forty days. God gave him the Ten Commandments, written on stone. He also gave Moses all the other laws which the people were to obey. When Moses came down from the mountain he explained these laws to the people and then wrote them in the Bible.

God also told Moses to make a tabernacle for Him, and He promised that when it should be finished He would come down and dwell in it in the midst of His people. God told Moses just how



COMING DOWN FROM SINAI
—Doré

this tabernacle was to be built and He showed him the pattern of everything it was to contain. He ordered Moses to ordain Aaron and his sons priests and showed him what vestments they were to wear and how they were to offer the sacrifice.

THE BUILDING OF THE TABERNACLE

When Moses came down from the mountain he told the people all that God had said about the building of the tabernacle. He told them that God wanted them to show their love and gratitude for Him by giving Him the best of everything they had for the tabernacle. But he made them understand that God would accept only those things which they offered to Him freely.

Moses explained what would be needed for the tabernacle, and the people brought him gold and

silver and brass, violet, purple and scarlet cloth and fine linen. They also brought goat's hair and rams' skins, dyed red and violet, for the roof of the tabernacle. They brought setim wood for the ark of the covenant and for the sides of the tabernacle, and precious stones with which to adorn the sacred vessels and vestments.

When all these things had been given to Moses by the people, he showed skilled workmen how to build the tabernacle and everything in it after the pattern which God had shown him. When it was finished, it was forty-five feet long, fifteen feet wide, and fifteen feet high. The sides of it were made of setim-wood boards that were covered with gold and set in silver sockets. Over these boards were hung curtains of bright colors made of fine linen and richly embroidered. The roof of the tabernacle was made of goat's hair and rams' skins, dyed red and violet.

The tabernacle was divided into two parts by a beautiful veil which was hung on golden pillars. The smaller part of the tabernacle was the Holy of Holies. It was ten cubits high, ten cubits long and ten cubits wide.

While the tabernacle was being built, other

skilled workmen made the ark of the covenant. This was a chest made of setim wood. It was two and a half cubits long, a cubit and a half broad, and a cubit and a half high. It was covered on the inside and on the outside with pure gold. There was a gold crown around the top of the ark and there was a gold ring fastened to each of its four corners. Through these rings there ran two long bars of setim wood covered with pure gold. The ends of these bars rested on the priests' shoulders when the ark was carried from place to place.

In the ark of the covenant were placed the two stone tables, on which God had written the Ten Commandments. Two golden angels rested on the top of the ark, one at each end. These angels faced each other and their wings were spread out, so as to meet over the center of the ark.

When finished, the ark of the covenant was placed within the Holy of Holies. The top of the ark between the angels was the Mercy Seat, from which God spoke to the high priest once a year. Over the Holy of Holies there rested a bright silver cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. This was a sign to the people by which they knew that the tabernacle was the dwelling place of God in their midst.

Moses also had a table made of setim wood, as God had commanded, and he had it covered with pure gold. And there was made an altar of incense out of setim wood, covered with pure gold. The workmen also made cups and bowls and a seven-branched candlestick out of pure gold, as God had commanded.

And all these things were put in the larger part of the tabernacle, which was called the Holy Place, and was thirty cubits long, ten cubits wide, and ten cubits high. On the golden table were kept twelve loaves of bread, to represent the twelve tribes of Israel. The priests entered the Holy Place every day to burn incense on the golden altar and to keep the lights burning in the seven-branched candlestick.

The tabernacle was surrounded by a court, which was a large open space one hundred cubits long and fifty cubits wide. It was enclosed by bright colored curtains, five cubits high. Within this court was placed the great altar, where sacrifices were offered every morning and evening.

THOUGHTS FOR US

God hears the prayers of all His children, but He has always dealt with His people through one man whom He called to be a mediator. God created us in Adam and He redeemed us through Jesus Christ, His only Son. He saved all who escaped from the flood through Noe. He called Abraham to be the father of His Chosen People. Through Joseph He saved the Egyptians and the Children of Israel from starvation. Through Moses He delivered the Children of Israel from slavery in Egypt and prepared them for the coming of the Saviour. Through Moses God also fed His people in the desert and gave them water to drink from a rock. Through Moses He gave His law to the people, and through him He gave directions for the building and furnishing of His tabernacle and for the sacrifices that were to be offered.

God chose Aaron to be the first priest among the Hebrews, and ordered that his children only were to be ordained to offer sacrifice to Him. God ordered that all the children of Levi should devote themselves to the service of the tabernacle, and that they should be supported by the children of all the other tribes.

QUESTIONS

Did the Children of Israel live in houses?

Was the tabernacle a tent just like the tents the people lived in?

Why did God want the people to build Him a tabernacle when He could have made a more beautiful one Himself?

Why did He want them to make His tabernacle more beautiful than the tents in which the people lived?

What was the ark of the covenant made of?

How long was it; how many feet wide; how many feet high?

What was the Holy of Holies?

How big was it?

Who was allowed to go into the Holy of Holies?

How did the people know that God dwelt in the Holy of Holies?

Where was the golden altar of incense kept?

Who were allowed to go into the Holy Place?

What did the priests do there every day?

Who were the priests?

Who were the Levites?

How were they supported?

SACRIFICES IN THE TABERNACLE

After the Children of Israel had built the tabernacle, God did not want to let them forget their duty to Him. He told Moses that the people should bring to the tabernacle and offer to Him the first fruits and the firstlings of their flocks.

Every morning and every evening a sacrifice was to be offered on the altar in the court of the tabernacle for all the people. Besides this, when any one wished to express his gratitude towards God, or to beg God's pardon for some sin, he brought a lamb or a calf to the tabernacle, and the priest offered it to God for him.

On one day in the year the high priest was commanded to enter the Holy of Holies. This was the Day of the Great Atonement. As a preparation for the sacrifice offered on this day all the people were ordered to fast from sunset the day before until three o'clock in the afternoon. No one, not even a little child, was allowed to eat anything during this time. All the people fasted to express to God sorrow for their sins.

Early in the morning on the Day of Atonement

the high priest offered a calf on the altar of holocausts for his own sins and for the sins of his family. The high priest took some of the calf's blood and carried it through the Holy Place into the Holy of Holies. He sprinkled the Mercy Seat with this blood to express to God his sorrow for his sins and to beg mercy and forgiveness for them.

After the high priest had thus obtained forgiveness for his own sins, he came out of the tabernacle and, at the door of the court, two goats were presented to him in the name of all the people. Lots were cast upon these goats, and on the forehead of one was written, "For the Lord," and on the forehead of the other, "To be sent away."

The high priest laid his hands upon the heads of these goats and prayed that the sins of all the people might rest upon them. Then one of the goats was sacrificed on the altar of holocausts, and the high priest took some of his blood, and going into the Holy of Holies, sprinkled it upon the Mercy Seat. He prayed to God that He might be merciful to all His people and take away their sins. Then the other goat was driven out into the wilderness, so that the people might see how sin should be banished from among them.

THOUGHTS FOR US

The sacrifices of the tabernacle taught the people to be generous toward God and to give Him the best of everything they had. They also prepared the people to understand the sacrifice which Our Saviour was to offer. The sacrifice of Atonement showed the people how Jesus Christ would, by His death on the cross, take away the sins of the world.

QUESTIONS

Why did God want the people to offer Him sacrifices in the tabernacle?

For whom were the sacrifices offered every morning and evening?

What did the people do when they wanted to express their gratitude to God or to beg pardon for their sins?

On what day did the high priest go into the Holy of Holies?

What preparation did the people make for the sacrifice of atonement?

Why did the people fast?

How did the high priest offer the sacrifice?

What did he do to the two goats that were presented to him at the door of the court?

What did it teach to the Hebrew people?

What does this sacrifice remind us of?

THE TEMPLE

During the forty years in which the Children of Israel wandered in the desert, God dwelt in His tabernacle in the midst of them. They consulted Him before going to war and He told them when to move their camp.



THE ARK OF THE COVENANT—*Raphael*

When the people marched from place to place the priests carried the ark of the covenant on their shoulders, and the pillar of cloud, which was the sign of God's presence, rested upon the ark. The tabernacle was folded up and carried by the Levites, who followed the ark, and all the Children of Israel followed the Levites.

After forty years, God permitted the Children of Israel to enter into the Promised Land, but for a long time after this they were at war with their neighbors. For nearly five hundred years God continued to dwell in His tabernacle in their midst, and the pillar of cloud over the Holy of Holies continued as a sign to the people that God was with them.

When David became king he wanted to build a temple to the Lord, but God would not let him do so. God told him to put aside gold and silver and precious stones and riches of all kinds, and that his son Solomon would succeed him on the throne of Israel and build a house to the Lord.

After David died, Solomon became king, and he set to work at once to build a temple to the Lord in Jerusalem. This temple was built after the pattern of the tabernacle, but it was much larger

and more beautiful in every way, and instead of boards and curtains, its walls were made of rock, lined with costly wood.

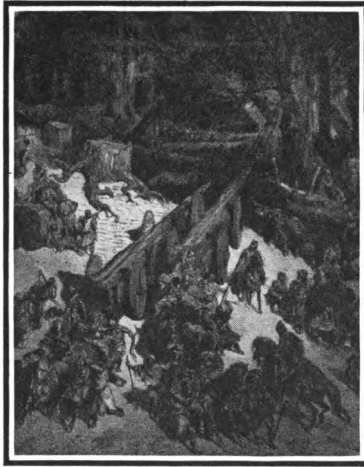
When the temple was completed, it was sixty cubits long, twenty cubits wide, and thirty cubits high. There were two courts around the temple; an outer court for the people, and an inner court for the priests. The courts were surrounded by broad stone walls, on which the people could walk.

The Holy of Holies was built within the temple. It was twenty cubits long, twenty cubits broad, and twenty cubits high. It was covered inside and outside with pure gold. Within the Holy of Holies was kept the ark of the covenant, with the two golden angels, one on each side of the Mercy Seat.

In the Holy Place was put the golden table, on which the twelve loaves were kept. Here also were kept the altar of incense, the seven-branched candlestick and ten golden lamps.

The great altar of sacrifice was built in the court of the priests. On this altar all the holocausts were offered and on this the goat was sacrificed for sin on the Great Day of Atonement.

The wood used in the temple was obtained from the great cedar trees that grew on the top of Mount

CEDARS OF LEBANON—*Doré*

Lebanus and from palm trees and olive trees that grew in the fertile valleys of Palestine.

Two hundred thousand men worked for seven years in building the temple. When it was finished, Solomon dedicated it to God.

That night God appeared to him and said: Solomon, I have heard thy prayer and the supplication which thou hast made before me. I have sanctified this house which thou hast built for me and I shall dwell here always if thou wilt walk in my presence with a simple and upright heart, as thy father, King David, did.

If the people will keep my commandments and obey my laws, they will be my people and I will strengthen them against their enemies. But if you and your children turn away from me, I will abandon you. If you neglect the ceremonies which I have established and go after false gods, I will take away from you all the things which I have

given you. If you are not faithful to me, this temple, which I have sanctified in my name, shall be destroyed and the Children of Israel shall be mocked by their enemies.

TEMPLES

Ye trees upon the mountains high
And tossing in the breeze,
Yours is a holy destiny,
For men shall bend their knees
Adoring Him who soon shall live
Within the shrine your wood shall give.

And all the waving fields of wheat
And sunny hills of vine,
They cannot know unto what Meat
They grow through power divine:
They, too, shall build a holy shrine,
Man's soul, a dwelling-place divine.

—*Charles L. O'Donnell, C. S. C.*

THOUGHTS FOR US

The Children of Israel were forbidden to offer sacrifice anywhere but in the temple. There they brought their offerings and the victims for the sacrifices. The people who lived at a great distance from Jerusalem could only go to the temple once in a while, but whenever possible, the Hebrews went to the temple to celebrate the great feasts of the year.

The first fruits and the firstlings of the flocks were offered to God each year. The oldest child of every family was also presented to God in the temple and was then redeemed by his parents, who offered in his stead a lamb or a pair of doves. When Mary was a child she was presented in the temple, and when Jesus was only a few days old He was presented in the temple, where Anna, the prophetess, recognized Him as the Saviour of the world, and holy Simeon took Him in his arms and blessed God and said: *Now, Thou dost dismiss Thy servant, O Lord, according to Thy word in peace; because my eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all peoples: A light to the revelation of the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel.*

When children were twelve years old they went up to the temple with their parents on great feast days. The first time that Jesus went up to the temple with His parents He remained behind them in Jerusalem when they set out for home. And on the third day they found Him in the temple in the midst of the doctors, hearing them and asking them questions.

After this first visit, Our Saviour went up to

the temple every year. On one of His visits, a short time before He died, He found men buying and selling there. He was very angry with them and drove them out of the temple with a whip, saying to them, it is written: my house is the house of prayer. But you have made it a den of thieves.

How thankful we ought to be that the house of God is always near us so that we may visit it often. Only the priests were allowed to enter the tabernacle or the temple, but Our Lord invites all of us to come into His house to visit Him whenever we can.

QUESTIONS

What was the first dwelling place of God among men?

What was it called?

What was the first house built for God called?

Who built it?

How long did it take to build it?

How many men were at work upon it?

What did God promise Solomon if he and all the people would keep His commandments and observe His ceremonies?

What did God say would happen to them if they disobeyed His laws?

Who were allowed to offer sacrifices in the temple?

What did Simeon say when Our Lord was presented in the temple?

What did Our Lord say to those who were buying and selling in the temple?

What do we say when we go into the house of God?

Whom do we visit there?

THE UPPER ROOM

At the moment that Our Lord died on the cross the veil of the temple was torn from top to bottom. By this sign God showed that the temple was no longer His house, and it was destroyed by fire forty years afterwards.

All the sacrifices that had been offered in the tabernacle and the temple were symbols of the one great sacrifice which Our Saviour offered on the cross for the redemption of the world. God told Moses to have these sacrifices offered. He even told him what vestments the priests should wear and how they should offer the sacrifices. But after the Sacrifice of the Cross, the sacrifices of animals no longer had any meaning, and Our Saviour ordered them to be discontinued. He told His disciples that God no longer wished the sacrifice of sheep or of oxen.

All the sacrifices of the Old Law prepared the people for the Sacrifice of the Cross, and Our Saviour, at the Last Supper, instituted the Sacrifice of the Mass to continue the Sacrifice of the Cross to the end of time.

Among the Chosen People sacrifices were offered in only one place, but our Saviour changed this when He founded the kingdom of God on earth. This kingdom is the holy Catholic Church, to which all who are to be saved must belong. The only sacrifice offered in this kingdom is the perfect sacrifice which Jesus Christ offered up to His Heavenly Father for the redemption of the world. This sacrifice is continued in every church in the world where a priest offers up the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

In the large upper room in the house of a friend in Jerusalem Our Lord ate His Last Supper with His disciples. Here He ordained the Apostles to be the first bishops of His church; here He instituted the Blessed Sacrament and the Sacrifice of the Mass, which He commanded His Apostles and their successors to celebrate in every part of the world.

It was in this same upper room that the disciples and the Blessed Virgin gathered together to fast and pray after Our Lord had ascended into Heaven, and here the Holy Ghost descended upon them in tongues of fire. It was in this same room that St. Peter celebrated the first Mass after the descent of the Holy Ghost.

The Upper Room was more truly the house of God than either the tabernacle or the temple. It was here that Our Saviour, who was truly God as well as man, founded His Church and instituted the Sacrifice of the Mass. It was here He gave Himself to His Apostles in Holy Communion, and it was in this room that the Holy Ghost became the soul of the Church.

THOUGHTS FOR US

The sacrifices of the tabernacle and of the temple were only symbols; that is, they were intended to make us understand the Sacrifice of the Cross, of which they were the signs or symbols. But the Sacrifice of the Mass is a real sacrifice that has value in itself. In the Mass the priest, acting for Our Saviour, offers up to God the only perfect victim.

The Sacrifice of the Mass is, therefore, a real sacrifice. When the priest says, This is my body, the bread becomes the body of Christ; and when He says, This is my blood, the wine becomes the blood of Christ. The separate consecration of the bread and wine shows us that the blood of Christ

was separated from His body for our sake in the Sacrifice of the Cross. The Mass is called the unbloody sacrifice of the cross, because Christ died only once, and the Mass represents that death.

Only the high priest was allowed to enter the Holy of Holies, but Christ invites all His followers to come to Him. He enters our hearts in Holy Communion and makes them His Holy of Holies. Moses taught the people to fear God, but Christ taught all His followers to love God as a most dear Father.

QUESTIONS

Who offered the sacrifices in the temple?

Who offers the Sacrifice of the Mass?

Why did Christ order the sacrifice of animals to be discontinued?

Why is the Sacrifice of the Mass called the unbloody Sacrifice of the Cross?

How is the death of Christ represented in the Sacrifice of the Mass?

Who is the victim in the Sacrifice of the Cross?

Who is the victim in the Sacrifice of the Mass?

Who offered up the Sacrifice of the Cross?

Who offers up the Sacrifice of the Mass?

For what ends was the Sacrifice of the Cross offered?

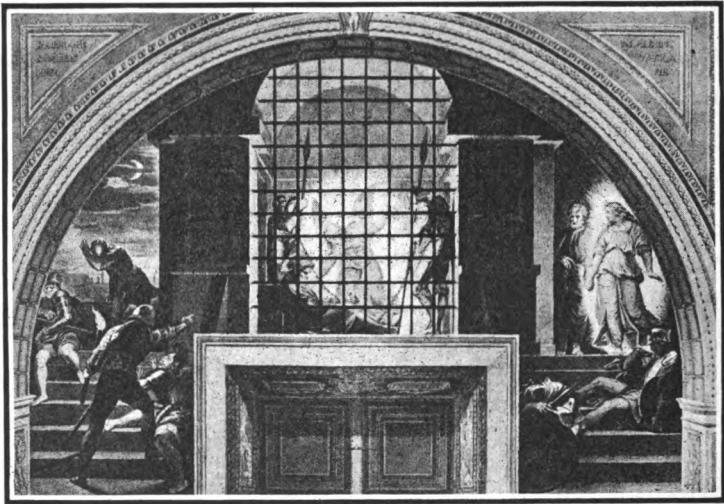
For what ends is the Sacrifice of the Mass offered?

THE FIRST CHRISTIANS

After the descent of the Holy Ghost the Apostles began to preach to the people, as Christ had commanded them to do. Jerusalem at this time was filled with strange people from all parts of the world. They spoke many different languages and could not understand one another. But when the Apostles spoke to them about Jesus, they all understood. This miracle, which the Holy Ghost enabled the Apostles to perform, filled the people with wonder, and they gave glory to God.

The Apostles continued to preach to the people, explaining to them the promises and prophecies concerning Jesus which God had made to His chosen servants since the days of Adam. They showed the people how Jesus fulfilled all these prophecies and thus proved to them that He was the Saviour whom God had promised to send into the world.

When the enemies of Jesus saw that the Apostles were making a multitude of converts they became very angry. They stoned to death St. Stephen, who was one of Our Lord's disciples; they punished the Apostles and forbade them to preach the Gospel, but the Apostles were no longer afraid, and



ST. PETER DELIVERED FROM PRISON—*Raphael*

they told their judges that they would obey God rather than man. St. Peter was thrown into prison, but God sent an angel to deliver him from his enemies, and he went through the country preach-

ing and baptizing the people. And all the other Apostles did in like manner.

A young man named Saul was among Our Lord's enemies. It was he who held the coats of the men while they stoned St. Stephen, and he wanted to have all the Christians punished. But Our Saviour appeared to him and converted him. He called him to be an Apostle to the Gentiles and changed his name to Paul.

After some years, St. Peter and St. Paul went to Rome, which was the greatest city in the world in those days. They made a great many converts there. These people met in private houses to be instructed by the Apostles, who also said Mass for them and gave them Holy Communion.

The enemies of the Christians were very powerful in Rome. These wicked men told lies about the Christians and made the emperor hate them and put them to death. St. Peter and St. Paul were cast into prison. After a while St. Peter was crucified and St. Paul was beheaded, but their successors continued to instruct the faithful and to celebrate Mass for them.

CONSOLATION

“It is I, be not afraid.”
 When I sink down in gloom or fear,
 Hope blighted or delayed,
 Thy whisper, Lord, my heart shall cheer,
 “’Tis I, be not afraid.”

Or, startled at some sudden blow,
 If fretful thoughts I feel,
 “Fear not, it is but I!” shall flow,
 As balm my wound to heal.

Nor will I quit Thy way, though foes
 Some onward pass defend;
 From each rough voice the watchword goes
 “Be not afraid! . . . A friend!”

And oh! when judgment’s trumpet clear
 Awakes me from the grave,
 Still in its echo may I hear,
 “’Tis Christ, He comes to save.”

—*Cardinal Newman*

THOUGHTS FOR US

St. Peter loved Our Lord very much, but when Jesus was arrested he was so frightened he said he did not know Him. St. John was so much afraid that he ran away from the Garden of Gethsemane and left his coat in the hands of one of the high priest’s servants. But after the Holy Ghost

came down upon them they became brave men who were afraid of nothing. St. Peter had very little education and he could not understand the prophecies when Our Lord explained them to him. But when the Holy Ghost descended upon him, he understood the Bible and he understood everything Our Lord had said to him.

We are all dull and cowardly until the Holy Ghost helps us to understand the truths of religion and gives us courage to obey God's will. In the Sacrament of Confirmation the Holy Ghost comes into our souls and helps us understand the truths of religion and to be brave in acknowledging God and obeying Him.

After the Holy Ghost came down upon the Apostles they did what God commanded them to do, no matter what the powerful ones of this world said. And they suffered death rather than disobey God.

A HYMN FOR PENTECOST

St. Hilary

The rolling year, in joy complete,
The jubilee of glory wrought,
What time the Heavenly Paraclete
His gifts to the apostles brought.

Aglow with living light He came
Upon the twelve in tongues of fire,
That they might all the world inflame
With word of truth and pure desire.

Then, guided by a power divine,
The tongue of every clime they spake,
Filled with God's love, as with new wine,
They bade the earth from sin awake.

The mystic rites are all complete,
The paschal-tide is overpassed;
From sin and shame remission sweet
The new law brings our souls at last.

Dear God of mercy and of power,
Bowed at Thy feet in prayer and love
We come; send down Thy Heavenly dower,
The Spirit's largess from above.

As Thou hast filled our lives with light,
And oped our bosoms to Thy grace,
So guide us ever in Thy might,
And fit us for thy dwelling-place.

All praise to God the Father be,
The same to Christ, the risen Son;
And Holy Paraclete, to Thee,
Forever reigning, three in one.

—*Tr. by D. J. Donahoe*

QUESTIONS

Who was the first martyr?

What kind of men were the Apostles before the descent of the Holy Ghost?

What kind of men were they after that?

Who was St. Paul?

Who converted him?

To whom was he sent to preach?

How did he die?

Where did St. Peter die?

Where did the first Christians in Rome come together to be instructed and to hear Mass?

Who said Mass for them?

THE CATACOMBS

Outside of the city of Rome the early Christians buried their dead in underground cemeteries called catacombs. The catacombs were long, narrow passages dug out of the solid rock. Niches in which the dead were placed were cut in the walls on each side of these passages.

Outside the walls of Rome there were many miles of these underground cemeteries. In some places the passages were widened out into large rooms, where, during the persecutions, the Christians met secretly to assist at Mass and to receive Holy Communion. Sometimes the tomb of a martyr was built on the floor of one of these rooms in the catacombs, and an altar was built over it, on which Mass was celebrated.

For three hundred years the enemies of God continued to persecute the Christians, but they remained steadfast in the faith and gave up all their worldly possessions in order to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. The early Christians remembered Our Lord's last messages and loved one another tenderly. They supported the widows and the orphans and they gave generously to the poor.

They kept the Commandments and lived such beautiful lives that many of the noblest men and women of Rome gave up their position in the world and became Christians.

A great many of these converts suffered martyrdom rather than disobey God by offering sacrifice to idols. Men, women and children suffered cruel tortures rather than deny Jesus or disobey His Commandments.

Our Lord came down to earth to show us the way to Heaven, and the way He showed us was the way of the cross. He took every human means to avoid falling into the hands of His enemies. He went into Jerusalem under cover of the darkness to eat His Last Supper with His disciples. He warned His betrayer against the evil deed he was about to commit. He retired to the Garden of Gethsemane and asked His Apostles to watch and pray while He went further into the garden and begged His Father to save Him from the suffering that awaited Him.

Jesus did all these things to show us that we should avoid danger, and the early Christians followed Our Saviour's example by hiding in the catacombs to avoid their enemies.

Our Saviour bade all who would come after Him to take up the cross and follow Him. We must, therefore, do the will of God, no matter how hard it may be. Our Saviour set us an example of this when He went into the garden and prayed: If it be possible, let this chalice pass from me, but not my will, but Thine, be done.

The early Christians imitated Our Saviour in this, for when they were arrested and brought before their judges, they refused to disobey God, no matter what punishment was inflicted upon them. They suffered the cruelest death rather than prove disloyal to Jesus or disobey the will of their Heavenly Father.

After remaining in the tomb for three days, Christ rose gloriously on the third day. And so the early Christians, after they had suffered persecution and remained hidden in the catacombs for three hundred years, came up out of the catacombs in triumph. Then they realized the meaning of Our Saviour's words: Blessed are they that suffer persecution for justice sake, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven.



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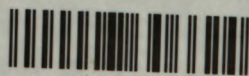
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