

VISIT TO THE BLESSED SACRAMENT ON TUESDAY

The devout Father Nieremberg says that bread being of full which is consumed by eating and which keeps when preserved for use, Jesus was pleased to dwell on earth under its species, that He might thus not only be consumed by uniting Himself to the souls of His lovers by means of Holy Communion, but also that He might be preserved in the tabernacle, and be present with us, and thus remind us of the love which He bears us. St. Paul says, "He emptied Himself, taking the form of a servant" (Phil. 2, 7). But what must we say, when we see Him taking the form of bread? "No tongue would suffice," says St. Peter of Alcantara, "to proclaim the greatness of the love which Jesus bears to every soul which is in this state of grace; and therefore, in order that His absence might not be to them an occasion of forgetting Him, this most sweet Spouse, when He was pleased to quit this life, left as a memorial this most Blessed Sacrament, in which He Himself remains: He willed not that between these souls and Himself any other pledge but Himself should remain, whereby to keep alive their remembrance of Him."

Since, then, my Jesus, Thou art enclosed in this tabernacle to receive the supplications of miserable creatures who come to seek an audience with Thee, listen this day to the petition addressed to Thee by the most ungrateful sinner living on earth.

I come repentant to Thy feet, for I now know the evil which I have committed in giving Thee displeasure. My first prayer and desire, then, is, that Thou wilt be please to pardon me all the seeds which I have committed against Thee. Ah, my God, would that I had never offended Thee! After this I must tell Thee my next desire. Now that I have found out Thy sovereign goodness, I have become enamored of Thee; I feel in ardent desire to love Thee and to please Thee; but I have not the strength to do this unless Thou help me. Manifest, Oh great Lord, Thy supreme power and Thy immense goodness to the whole court of heaven; change me from a great rebel, such as I have hitherto been to Thee, into a great lover of Thee. Thou canst do it, and I know that such is Thy will; supply all that is lacking in me, that thus I may be enabled to love Thee much -- at least that I may love Thee as much as I have offended Thee. I love Thee, my Jesus; I love Thee above all things; I love Thee more than my life my God, my Love, my all.