

God's Own Sacrifice.

There is no religion complete without sacrifice. There has been no pagan rite without a victim which is offered to the divinity, God prescribed victims, bloody and unbloody, under the **Old Law**; the Sacrifice of the New Law, prophesied and prefigured in the Old, was established by Christ as a memorial and perpetual renewal of His Passion and Death. If there were any sacrifice more pleasing to God, He would have given it to us.

Personal Sacrifice.

Under the Jewish Law sacrifice could be offered only in the Temple at Jerusalem. Jews came there from the far corners of Palestine, even from the remotest parts of the civilized world, to offer sacrifice and to partake of the victim. And they came! St. Luke in his description of the descent of the Holy Ghost upon the Apostles, mentions fifteen provinces as represented in the crowd that gathered to hear the Apostles preach. They had come to celebrate the Jewish Pentecost.

Pearls before Swine.

The New Sacrifice was not limited to Jerusalem -- not to Rome, the new religious capital of the world. God multiplied priests and victim, so that "from the rising of the sun to the going down of the same" Mass is offered on countless altars throught the world -- with scant attendance.

Here at Notre Dame some seventy Masses are said every day. The sacrifice of Calvary is renewed seventy times. "The Body is broken and the Blood is shed for us." Christ comes down from heaven on seventy altars, at the command of Me." And the chapels are all but empty of worshippers!

"For if this most holy Sacrament were celebrated
"in one place only, and consecrated by only one
"priest in the world, with how great a desire,
"thinkest thou, would men be affected towards that
"place, and to such a priest of God, that they
"might see the divine Mysteries celebrated."

-- Following of Christ, Book 4, ch. 1.

Within the Law.

Our perverse human tendency is to remain just within the Law. The Church prescribes the Minimum requirements, and we accept the minimum -- with just a little more. We do only what we have to do to avoid mortal sin -- and now and then, by miscalculation, enter at the Sanctus instead of the Gospel. The Church makes allowance for our weakness and permits distribution of Holy Communion outside of Mass -- The separation of the Sacrifice and the Sacrament. We lie in bed when Christ comes down upon the altar, and ask him to wait for us!

Revive Your Faith.

Daily Communion is good; daily Mass and Communion are far better. Lent offers an opportunity for a revival of Faith. You cannot outdo God in generosity. Go to Mass every day during Lent. Pray to God for some of the spirit of the early Christians who thronged the catacombs at the risk of their lives, to assist at the renewal of Calvary's sacrifice. Check in your Faith at the end of forty days and see whether you have gained in peace and strength of mind what you have lost in sleep and comfort.