

"SAINT BERNARD tells us that everything has come to us through Mary, and we may also say that everything has come to us through the priest; yes, all happiness, all graces, all heavenly gifts. If we had not the Sacrament of Orders, we should not have Our Lord. Who placed Him there, in that tabernacle? It was the priest. Who was it that received your soul on its entrance into life? The priest. Who nourishes it to give it strength to make its pilgrimage? The priest. Who will prepare it to appear before God, by washing that soul for the last time, in the Blood of Jesus Christ? The priest - - always the priest. And if that soul comes to the point of death, who will raise it up, who will restore it to calmness and peace? Again the priest. You cannot recall one single blessing from God without finding, side by side with this recollection, the image of the priest.

Go to confession to the Blessed Virgin, or to an angel; will they absolve you? No. Will they give you the Body and Blood of Our Lord? No. The Holy Virgin cannot make her Divine Son descend into the Host. You might have two hundred angels there, but they could not absolve you. A priest, however simple he may be, he can do it; he can say to you, 'Go in peace I pardon you.' Oh, how great is the priest! The priest will not understand the greatness of his office until he is in Heaven. If he understood it on earth he would die, not of fear, but of love..... O God! O God! How Thou hast loved us! See the power of the priest: out of a piece of bread, the word of a priest makes a God! It is more than creating the world!"