

First Communion
sermon
1943
IP1

"Supper of children & feed"
Matt. ch 14 vs 14.

P1: The love of Christ for children.

One of the most familiar gospel scenes to us all, a scene that is often painted, a scene we often see in stained glass windows in our churches, is that of Christ in the midst of a group of children. We know that Christ in the midst of a group of children was a frequent occurrence in Christ's life. It was a most natural thing.

The children were attracted to Christ because He possessed every attractive quality. They were attracted by His appearance, by His kindly manner, by the softness of His voice, by the music of His speech, by His free and easy manner, by His sincerity and simplicity, when talking with them He became one of them. And Christ was also attracted by them.

Christ was attracted to them not so much by their fresh appearance, their sparkling eyes and bright smiles ~~and~~ as by the freshness and brightness of their souls. He was attracted to them because of their innocence, their purity, their simplicity and their

humility. He was attracted to them
because of their beauty of soul,
because their souls were not yet
stained or marked or flawed or marred
or defurred or disfigured by sin. To
see Christ in the midst of a
group of children is to ~~see~~ make
~~obvious~~ ^{explain} why Christ ~~the~~ why Christ
was later to be in the hands of the
Roman soldiers and the murderous leaders
of the Jews. It explains the crowning of
thorns, the beating at the pillars, the
insults, the cuts, the bruises, the
agonizing of the cross, and all
~~that~~ the agony of the passion
is the result of Christ's love for
children - children in body and
children in spirit, for Christ has
told us that unless we become
as little children we shall not
enter into the Kingdom of God.

So heaven is only for children, ~~that~~
in ~~the~~ children in body and children in
spirit. A picture of heaven is really
but the ^{re-encounter} ~~repetition~~ of Christ under
the skies and trees of Palestine in the
middle of a group of happy children.

First
Communion
Sermon TP(2)

P(2): Christ > show his love > children > morn

In a most special manner, Christ is showing his love for children this morning. A group of children in this church, after careful preparation by teachers and parents are going to receive their first Holy Communion. This is their first Holy Communion Day! First Holy Communion Day means that they are going to receive this should be the happiest day of their lives, because they are going to receive the greatest gift God ever gave to men - Himself. It means that Christ is going to mingle with these children in a much more intimate way than He did with the children He gathered around Him in the fields and streets and woods of the Holy Land, for this morning they are going to receive Christ into their hearts. It means that Christ is going to be met by these children in a much more effective way this morning, because while ~~the~~ children of ~~the~~ ~~past~~ ~~times~~ contemporary with Christ on earth received Christ's blessing and physical company, the children here are going to receive not only

Christ, but the grace of Christ ministered
by ~~Christ~~ the death of Christ on Calvary's
cross. They are going to receive into
their hearts the same Christ whom
Mary held to her heart in the stable
of Bethlehem, the same Christ who
as a boy of 6 and 7 and 8, like
the children here, played and laughed
in the streets of Nazareth, the same
Christ who cured the lame, the
blind, the lepers and mute of Palestine,
the same Christ who said at the
Paschal supper on the eve of his
passion "This is my Body", the same
Christ whose blood spattered the dungeon
of Pilate's palace, whose blood reddened
the streets of Jerusalem on the way to
Calvary, whose blood dripped from the
white body of Jesus on the cross, and all
to make occasions such as this, this morning
possible.

So on this happy occasion, we
rejoice with the children on their First
Communion day, we congratulate them
and their parents and teachers and
we ask them to pray that with God's
grace they will preserve their souls in holiness; we
ask them to resolve that they will often
come to the altar and to meet Christ again in Holy Communion.

177): We must be like little children.

For all of us this morning, there who made their first communion only a few years ago, and there who made it so long ago that it seems to have taken place in another world, the picture of the children receiving this morning at the altar rail should teach us a two-fold lesson.

It should recall and impress on our minds the words of Christ Himself: Unless you become as little children you shall not enter into the kingdom of God. There is no choice in the matter. If we are to save our souls we must become children in soul. We are not wise to seek worldly wisdom, we will have no happiness or peace ^{and} seek sinful worldly pleasures; we must cultivate the simple virtues of innocence, humility and charity. And if our souls have lost their child-like innocence, we must restore them to freshness and purity by contrition, confession and a purpose of amendment. This is the way

in which we can become children in
soul again.

A second ~~resolution~~ ^{resolution} we should
impress ~~on~~ ^{on} our firmly on our minds
to-day is that to receive Christ
frequently in the Most Eucharist.

He is always waiting for ~~us~~ ^{us}
if we will go to Him. Our first
Communion is meant to be the
beginning of a long list of meetings
with Our Saviour in the sacrament
of His love. ^{Frequent Communion} ~~There~~ ^{is} a way to
recapture the happiness of
our first Holy Communion, it is
a way to obtain ~~the stream~~
a share in the streams of grace
that have ~~been~~ ^{been} poured out to man
ever since the blood of Christ stopped
pouring from His wounds. It is a
effortless way to become children in
spirit again.

So we rejoice this morning
with these children who are going
up to taste for the first time the
flesh and the blood of their good
and gracious and we resolve
we also will follow them of ten to
^{receive} the bread of angels and food of our souls.