

## EUCCHARIST AND CHARITY

ONLY TO ANGELS AND MEN GOD HAS GIVEN INTELLIGENCE: BUT TO EVERY CREATURE GOD HAS GIVEN A STRONG TENDENCY TOWARDS A DEFINITE END, WHICH IS ITS OWN GOOD. GOD HIMSELF HAS AN INFINITE TENDENCY TO HIMSELF: AND THIS INEFABLE TENDENCY OF GOD TO HIMSELF IS THE SUBSTANTIAL LOVE OF GOD, INFINITE, PERSONAL, THE HOLY GHOST. IT IS TRUE THAT OTHER THAN GOD THERE IS NO SUBSTANTIAL LOVE: BUT THE LAW OF LOVE IS AS UNIVERBSAL AS CREATION ITSELF, FROM THE ANGEL WHO LOVES GOD WITH RATIONAL LOVE DOWN <sup>T</sup>~~X~~ TO THE INORGANIC MATTER THAT HAS GRAVITATION, GRAPHICALLY CALLED BY ST. THOMAS THE NATURAL LOVE OF THE MATERIAL BODY.

LOVE, RAISED TO THE SUPERNATURAL ORDER, IS CHARITY. AT THE BEGINNING OF THE HUMAN CREATION, GOD DEIGNED BOTH TO ENLIGHTEN THE MIND OF MAN WITH A SPARK OF HIS INTELLIGENCE AND TO BE LINKED WITH MAN BY A STREAM OF SUPERNATURAL LOVE. THE DESOBEDIENCE OF ADAM CUT OFF BOTH THE SUPERNATURAL LIFE OF THE INTELLECT AND THE SUPERNATURAL BOND OF LOVE. ETERNAL THANKS BE GIVEN TO CHRIST, WHO RESTORED BOTH THE LIFE OF THE INTELLECT, BY THE INFUSION OF FAITH, AND THE UNION OF THE WILL, BY THE INFUSION OF CHARITY. THROUGH SANCTIFYING GRACE WE LIVE THE LIFE OF GOD: THROUGH CHARITY, SAYS ST. THOMAS, GOD COMES TO US AND WE HAVE ACCESS TO GOD. CHARITY IS THE LINK WHICH CONNECTS OUR SUPERNATURALIZED WILL WITH THE SUPREME GOOD AND WITH EVERY CREATURE WHO SHARES OR MAY SHARE DIVINE LIFE.