

## HOLY EUCHARIST AND EVERLASTING LIFE.

THE BENEFITS OF GOD ARE GIFTS AND PLEDGES, IN THE EXPRESSION OF ST. AUGUSTINE, BENEFICIA DEI, BENEFICIA ET PIGNORA. THE GREATEST OF DIVINE GIFTS, THE HOLY EUCHARIST, WHICH IS GIVEN TO US IN A MYSTERIOUS AND TEMPORAL POSSESSION FOR THE AID OF OUR SOULS, IS A FITTING PLEDGE OF THE GREATEST BENEFIT TO BE GIVEN BY GOD TO THE ELECT, <sup>D</sup> ~~is~~ <sup>namely</sup> THE TOTAL AND FINAL POSSESSION OF ~~THE~~ EVERLASTING HAPPINESS. THE GIFT OF HOLY COMMUNION TRANSFORMS THE HEART OF A COMMUNICANT INTO A CITADEL OF HIS EUCHARISTIC MAJESTY: TO THE COMMUNICANT IS PLEDGED THE POSSESSION OF ETERNAL HAPPINESS. ADDRESSING A COMMUNICANT ORIGEN SAYS: COELUM ES, ET IN CAELUM IBIS: THOU ART HEAVEN AND TO HEAVEN THOU SHALL GO.

LET US CONSIDER BRIEFLY SOME POINTS RELATING TO THE CONNECTION BETWEEN EUCHARIST AND ETERNALL BLISS.

ST. PAUL THUS SUMS UP THE FOUR STAGES OF CHRISTIAN LIFE: PREDESTINATION, VOCATION, JUSTIFICATION, GLORIFICATION. NOW GLORIFICATION OR ETERNAL LIFE IS NOT THE CHRISTIAN LIFE THAT STILL FLOWS, OR FLUCTUATES, OR WAWERS, LIKE THE RESTLESS LIQUID OF A MOVABLE STREAM, BUT IT IS THE MOMENTUM OF LIFE THAT HAS REACHED FINAL STABILITY, REQUIES AETERNA; IT IS THE GLORIOUS CULMINATION OF STRUGGLES NO LONGER TO BE ENDURED, PAX AETERNA; IT IS THE LIFE OF MAN, ABSORBED BY THE LIFE OF GOD, VIVAS IN DEO; IT IS THE LIGHT NEVER TO FADE, LUX PERPETUA LUCEAT EIS; IT IS THE UTMOST GRATIFICATION OF ALL THE <sup>I</sup> ~~ASPIRATIONS~~ <sup>N</sup> OF A SOUL, CREATED FOR GOD, SATIABOR CUM APPARUERIT GLORIA TUA.