

praise to their Sacramental King. Who has ever regarded external worship with an affectionate and jealous eye, as the entire Book of Leviticus so amply testifies. If, as Luther and Calvin taught, the sacraments are only divine seals and testimonies to enable us to resist the weaknesses of our faith, wherefore did Ananias command St. Paul; "Be baptized, and wash thy sins away?" Why did Tertullian, as early as the second century, declare: "The flesh is washed, that the soul may be cleansed?" Speaking of confirmation, he says, "The flesh is anointed, that the soul may be sanctified: the flesh is signed, that the soul may be strengthened," and again he affirms of Holy Orders: "The flesh is covered, or shaded with the impression of hands, that the soul maybe illuminated by the spirit." No, emphatically no, my dear Students, to the worthy reception of each sacrament is attached a special grace, called that of the sacrament and which, according to St. Peter, "makes us partakers of the divine nature." As truly as the sacraments exist, so truly do they produce salutary and divine effects: and your own recent experience may, perchance, vouch for the truth of this assertion. Bethink ye, for a moment, of the supreme peace your soul enjoyed, after your confession, during the last retreat; recall the happiness and joy that pervaded your jubilant heart, when, at the close, you received the "Bread that maketh virgins, and the Wine that inebriates with divinest love." Since, therefore, the sacraments produce marvelous effects, either by purifying the soul from sin, justifying it, or increasing grace, none other than Jesus Christ, true God and true Man, could ever be their author, none other could unite His merits, His satisfaction, His sufferings and death to certain visible signs and He alone could form from His precious blood those seven life-giving fountains whose sanctifying waters well up into your soul to life everlasting. That master mind, that theological giant, St. Thomas, tells us Our Blessed Savior determined the number of the sacraments with a wise and provident attention to our every spiritual want and necessity. Consider the united and harmonious action of a well organized and thoroughly