

1786 – 1859

Saint John Marie Vianney, Curé of Ars



St. John Marie Vianney writes regarding Holy Mass:

“If we knew the value of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, how much more zeal we would put into participating in it. How fortunate is that Guardian Angel who accompanies a soul to Holy Mass. [...] If I were to meet a priest and an Angel together, I would first honor the priest with my greeting, and then the Angel...If it were not for the priest, the Passion and Death of Jesus would be of no use. To what purpose would it serve to have a treasure chest filled with gold, if there were no one to open it? The priest has the key to the heavenly treasures. Who makes Jesus descend into the snow-white Host? Who places Jesus in our tabernacles? Who gives Jesus to our souls? Who purifies our hearts in order to receive Jesus? The priest, only the priest. He is the ‘minister of the Tabernacle’ (Hebrews 13:10), he is the ‘minister of reconciliation’ (2 Corinthians 5:18), he is the ‘minister of Jesus for the sake of his brothers’ (Colossians 1:7), he is the ‘dispenser of the divine mysteries.’ (1 Corinthians 4:1). And how many instances could be recounted of heroic Priests who sacrifice themselves in order to give Jesus to their brothers? The priest is ‘conformed



to the likeness of the Son of God’ (Hebrews 7:3), and only in heaven will the measure of his greatness be made known. If he were to comprehend it already here on earth, he would die - but not of fright, but rather of love. After God, the priest is all.”