Worcester F 80 Distinctiones

176 Bread (*Panis*)

Bread. To have sustenance we need bread for three reasons, namely, the bread of nature which is good but corporal. The bread of doctrine which is better but spiritual. The bread of the Eucharist is the best and sacramental.

¶ Concerning the first bread it is said Psal. [103:15]: “Bread may strengthen man’s heart.” Concerning the second, Matt. [4:4]: “Not in bread alone does man live, but in every word.”

¶ Concerning the third, [1] Cor. 11[:28]: “Let a man prove himself,” by true contrition of heart, confession of mouth, and satisfaction of work, “and so let him eat of that bread.” Now who else eats, eats perilously, because it is the true body of Christ that he eats, John 6[:52]: “The bread that I will give, is my flesh, for the life of the world.” And because these breads are necessary for strength and sustenance of man. Therefore, we expect it just as the chicks in the nest expect their parents that they may receive food. Our nest is faith which we have received in the washing by renouncing the devil and his pomps. And this is a marvelous comparison. For a nest and the baptismal font have a sameness. They figure and signify the faith which ought to be open upwards toward God and narrow below to the world so that one does not taste too much those things that are of the world, Psal. [103:27-28]: “All expect of you that you give them food in season.” Because “when you open your hand, they shall all be filled with good.” But alas because some leave the nest of faith and break it, so much in them is lying, defrauding, etc., against which, Job 29[:18]:

¶ “I shall die in my nest,” as if saying, I will not cross the boundaries of faith to illicit things, namely in perpetrating, in doing worse things, defrauding, etc., by acquiring earthly things. But another says here, Unless I thus commit fraud or do even worse, I will not be able to support myself and my family, but this is false. For if you have a servant faithful to you in all things you give him his necessities. Also, the unfaithful man does not do this. Therefore, believe God because if you serve him faithfully, he will give you your necessities or you will hold God to a worse infidelity. You will acquire more by serving God and confiding in God than by doing worse for temporal things, because if you seek evil things a third heir will not rejoice. Therefore, expect and sustain the Lord because truly he will give you your necessities, because Matt. 6[:25-26, 33]: “Be not solicitous for your life, what you shall eat.”

¶ Again, “Behold

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the birds of the air, for,” etc. “All these things shall be added unto you.” Yet another one says, We often see that they who serve God better are more in want. I respond, so it is concerning God just as concerning a physician having several sick people under his care, laboring in several ways. Of whom he withdraws food from one, he imposes a diet to another he grants a larger plate of food just as it is fitting to his sickness. So, God who knows the insides of men withdraws temporal things from one serving him, just as he weighs out for him, but he provides better things for him, to another he gives temporal goods to whom he denied eternal goods. Therefore, we do not serve God for earthly things, nor do we judge those in need who displease God, but we expect according to that of Isai. 25[:9]: “Lo, this is our God, we have waited for him,” he will come, “and he will save us.”

¶ Again it is bread of tears from the remembrance of crimes which David ate as is treated in Psal. [79:6]. It is hearth cake from the remembrance of his end which Elias ate, [3] Reg. [19:6].

¶ It is barley loaves from the mortification of the flesh which the Gospel trumpet claimed, John [6:9].

¶ It is wheaten bread from the remembrance of Christ’s passion when he laid down to die [Matt. 26:26]. “Unless the grain of wheat falls into the ground,” [John 12:24]. This bread is heavenly life giving with the sweetness of blessing.