

**HOLY WATER AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE
FOR CATHOLICS; TRANSLATED FROM
THE GERMAN; WITH A FEW
SCRIPTURAL AND HISTORICAL
INSERTIONS BY THE TRANSLATOR**

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Holy Water and Its Significance for Catholics; Translated from the German; With a Few Scriptural and Historical Insertions by the Translator by Rev. Henry Theiler & Rev. J. F. Lang

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REV. HENRY THEILER & REV. J. F. LANG

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HOLY WATER

AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE FOR
CATHOLICS

FROM THE GERMAN

OF

REV. HENRY THEILER, S.O.CIST.

BY

REV. J. F. LANG

WITH A FEW SCRIPTURAL AND HISTORICAL
INSERTIONS BY THE TRANSLATOR

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Archbishop of New York.

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*Praedictum opusculum rite examinatum
libenter approbamus illudque, utpote fidelium
devotioni valde utile et proficuum, commendamus.*

Romae, 3 Januarii, 1906.

Amedeus de Vie,
Ab. Gen. Ord. Cist.

L. ✠ S.

Episcopal Imprimatur.

We cheerfully grant the episcopal imprimatur for this booklet because it correctly presents the teaching of the Church concerning sacramentals, specifically that of Holy Water, and it likewise encourages in popular form, and from practical viewpoints to the faithful, the wholesome use of Holy Water.

Ratisbon, 28 March, 1906.

The Episcopal Ordinary,

Dr. Fr. Ead. Leitner,

Vicar-General.



AUTHOR'S FOREWORD

THE Catholic Church, the kingdom of Christ on Earth, is above all a kingdom of grace and of blessing, and the great seven-branched stream of the Holy Sacraments fruitfully permeates it, and from its waters the faithful draw grace upon grace. From one end to the other of this realm are erected the altars upon which the unbloody sacrifice of the New Testament is offered, and from them flow the streams of grace over the entire earth. Not content with these favors, holy sacramentals meander as so many rivulets of grace in holy Church, to refresh and strengthen them that draw

therefrom. Of one of these sacramentals we give a short description in this booklet, — holy water. May the Heavenly Father bless this work, and by it, for His honor, achieve much good for the salvation of souls.

ABBAY MAHIENSTATT,
Feast of St. Andrew, 1905.





CHAPTER I

THE SIGNIFICANCY OF WATER IN THE REALM OF NATURE AND OF GRACE

ON the first page of Holy Writ we read that "the Spirit of God moved over the waters." (Gen. i. 2.) Why moved the spirit of God over the waters? The writings of the Holy Doctors make reply: To bless them, that they may become adaptable to their task in the work of creation. The holy apostle Peter thus briefly attests these tasks of the waters: "For this they (deceitful scoffers) are wilfully ignorant of, that the heavens were before, and the earth out of water, and through water, consisting by the word of God." (2 Peter iii. 5.)