

**THE VISIBLE CHURCH, HER
GOVERNMENT, CEREMONIES,
SACRAMENTALS, FESTIVALS AND
DEVOTIONS; A COMPENDIUM OF "THE
EXTERNALS OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH"**

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The visible church, her government, ceremonies, sacramentals, festivals and devotions; a compendium of "The externals of the Catholic church" by John F. Sullivan

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JOHN F. SULLIVAN

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A COMPENDIUM OF
"THE EXTERNALS OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH"

BY

REV. JOHN F. SULLIVAN, D.D.

WITH 120 ILLUSTRATIONS

FROM PEN DRAWINGS BY THE AUTHOR

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PREFACE

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH is a *Visible Church*—a society existing among men and instituted by God, and worshipping Him with external observances which have been developed into a complex ritual. Her liturgy is a grand and harmonious manifestation of man's homage to his Creator. Its ceremonies and devotions are the growth of centuries. The essentials of our Church's worship have been embellished with a wealth of ritual practices, of which each detail is symbolic of the purpose for which that worship is offered.

In the training of our Catholic youth, up to the present time, little attempt has been made to impart instruction as to the history and meaning of the practices which have been embodied in the Church's majestic ritual. The doctrinal part of Catholicism has been, as a rule, well taught in our Catholic schools. There are several excellent catechisms of Christian doctrine, arranged serially from the simple elementary text-book for the small child to the advanced manual for high-school classes. But there has been a long-felt need of a book which would be a supplement to these doctrinal catechisms—a book which would give, in a form adapted to the classroom, a thorough explanation of the external practices of our Church; that is, her government, clergy, religious communities, sacramentals, ceremonies, festivals and devotions.

The present work is intended to supply this need.