

Now, the Blessed Virgin was the Springtime of that season of grace and mercy, and spiritual beauty, and perfection, with which our Divine Redeemer blessed and enriched the earth. At her approach the spiritual winter of the world disappeared, the springtime of hope and promise for mankind had come, soon to be followed by the Summer of Christ's richest blessings and graces. She was the day-star that appeared above the darkened horizon of a fallen world, to herald the rising of the Sun of eternal justice. Mary was the fairest flower in the garden of God. She was the flower of the field and the lily of the valley. She was the fairest, the most beautiful, and the most perfect of God's creatures. She was never stained by the sin of origin or of action, no thought allied to sin ever darkened her pure soul, no shadow of evil ever dimmed the brightness of her virginal purity. She was indeed "our tainted nature's solitary boast." Hence the inspired writer, gazing on the vision of her peerless beauty and perfection, as it appeared to his far-reaching gaze, exclaimed: "Who is she that cometh forth like the morning rising, fair as the Moon, beautiful as the Sun." (Canticles vi., v. 9.)

It was, then, a happy thought of the church, who, like her Divine Master, doeth all things well, to associate the beautiful month of May with devotion to the Blessed Virgin, and to make its natural beauty and loveliness—its hopes and its promises—symbolize the moral beauty and loveliness of Mary, and the blessed hopes and promises which she brought to the wearied hearts and despairing souls of mankind.

Devotion to the Blessed Virgin consists chiefly in honoring, venerating and loving her, and in earnestly and fervently invoking her powerful and most salutary intercession. All christians should honor, venerate and love our Blessed Lady, because (a) of the prominent place she has occupied in the economy of human redemption and reparation, because (b) of her transcendent sanctity and dignity, and because (c) God himself honored her above all other creatures, by bestowing on her the unspeakable and incomparable privilege of the Divine Motherhood.