

Then, shaking the dust from my feet, I girded up my loins, took my pilgrim's staff, and, with a light heart, walked quickly down the stairs and through the portal—exchanging without regret the proud castle whence peace had flown, for my quiet cloister. Here I wish to serve my Lord in all humility and prepare myself for an entrance into that blessed country beyond the grave. The calumnies of the Franciscans and Father Weridon had stung our father prior and all the brethren of our Order, to the quick. We often sat up late into the night discussing this serious question, and asking each other if our holy Order were really infected by such a damnable heresy, and whether it had fallen away from the pure and holy faith of the apostles. And we began to search in all the confessions of faith of martyrs, fathers and councils. But everywhere we have found God *three in one*, and nowhere *four in one*, as must be the case were the Virgin one with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Also the Lord Jesus has commanded us to baptize all men in the name of the Father, Son, and Spirit, but we nowhere read that He spoke thus of the Virgin.

While we were thus occupied in examining all these books and also the writings of the star of our Order, St. Bernard, the thought of another man of God came into my mind. I mean the great Saint Augustine. He likewise groped for truth with an upright heart until a mysterious voice, doubtless that of the Lord Himself, whispered in his ear the words, "Take and read!" And what book did God order him to read? Was it, as we are so often apt to do, the works of human wisdom?

No, it was the Word of God he was told to study—that Word which ought to be the basis of our faith and the rule of our life, since "it will last when heaven and earth shall have passed away." Then I steadfastly resolved, by the aid of His Spirit, to read and study perseveringly the miraculous history of the Incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ; of His passion, death and glorious resurrection; also of the foundation of His Church and its extension throughout all the world. In this spirit I applied myself, as well as my weakness permitted, to the study of the Holy Scriptures, and the more I advanced in the blessed labor, light shone into my heart and I found *Truth!* And I have indeed acknowledged with praises and thanksgiving, that God is Love! Thou, Mary, wast truly, as the angel said, "blessed among women," for God honored thee by choosing thee among all others to be the mother of His only and well beloved Son. And because thou wert not puffed up with pride on account of this superhuman favor; because thou didst believe and obey, even when all was a mystery; because thou didst remain dumb and submissive at the foot of the Cross when a sword pierced through thy soul—thou shalt be throughout all ages of the Church of God, the holy, chaste model of humility, faith and love!

Yes, blessed do we call thee, and blessed shall thou be called throughout all generations and centuries, because for thee, as for us all in heaven and in earth, "there is but one name given among men whereby they can be saved." It is that of Jesus Christ, *thy* Saviour and *thy* God, Mary, and the Redeemer of us all. May His holy name be praised now and for evermore! Amen.