

from that moment the children of the Church, in the person of St. John, took her to themselves as their mother. As our heavenly Mother she will not be neglectful of our spiritual interests. The mother cannot forget the child of her womb. Unlovely and repulsive he may look to others, but they do not regard him with a mother's eyes. He may have lost the innocence and moral beauty of his boyhood, he may have become a hardened criminal and be ostracised and shunned by his fellow-men, but as long as his mother lives he has one true, constant and undying friend. He may become an outlaw and be bidden away from the haunts of men, but as long as his mother has a roof to cover her he will there meet the warm welcome, and bright smile, and the comforting word, when he comes home again. Even though he should break her heart, yet will she cling to him, and even though human justice should for his crimes condemn him to an ignominious death the mother will stand under the shadow of the scaffold to receive his last sigh and to utter a prayer and a benediction for the soul that is gone. Deep and broad as the unfathomed sea is the mother's heart with its mighty love and undying affections. Now, the Blessed Virgin is the best of mothers, she is deeply interested in our welfare, and she never ceases and never will cease to plead for us with her mother's voice until all the elect children of God shall be gathered into their eternal home. The Rosary, therefore, must necessarily be a most powerful and efficacious form of prayer, and such it has always been found to be, since its first use in the life and history of the Church. Generations and generations of our Catholic fathers have been sanctified by the use of the Rosary, their hearts best wishes and souls aspirations have reached to heaven on the wings of its prayers, the holy Church has triumphed over its enemies through its instrumentality, and countless Catholic homes have been brightened and blessed by the contemplation of its mysteries and the recitation of its prayers. Hence, our Holy Father Leo XIII. has enriched it with many indulgences, and by his supreme authority, as Vicar of Christ, has most earnestly recommended its use to the faithful. We, therefore, earnestly exhort our people to make use of this venerable