

THE LITANY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN.

Many times, doubtless, have we recited the Litany of the Blessed Virgin. Our private devotion has frequently recited it to us, and often in its public recitation at church have we with prayerful heart answered, "Pray for us," to the invocations pronounced by the priest.

It is in olden times the word litany did not have the same meaning which is now attached to it. Being derived from the Greek, in which language it means supplication, it was employed to denote any form of public worship, so that even religious processions were called litanies.

Love is the strongest bond of union between persons, and nothing welds this bond more firmly than care and guardianship on the one hand and gratitude on the other. The Church has been and daily is the recipient, through the Blessed Virgin, of extraordinary benefits, favors and graces, and the strong arm of this protectress has often encircled the Church to shield her from impending disasters.

By the recitation of this Litany we become more devoted to the Blessed Virgin. When we mention and call to mind her sanctity, her dignity, her purity, her chastity and her boundless power to obtain whatever we stand in need of, we cannot but be affected with sentiments of adoration and reverence for her.

The collection of invocations which formed the nucleus of the Litany of the Blessed Virgin as we have it today, most probably had its origin about the year 1300. It sprang almost spontaneously from the devotion of the faithful assembled as pilgrims at the Holy House of Loreto, from which church the Litany is also called Litany of Loreto.

With regard to its form, we call for mercy first upon God and the Most Holy Trinity, as the Source, the Author and Giver of all graces, and then we invoke the intercession of the Blessed Virgin under her various titles, proper and metaphorical, thereby practicing a beautiful, pious and an eminently rational devotion to the Mother of God.

It has always been the custom among peoples to give honorary titles to certain persons, owing either to the exalted places occupied by them above their fellow beings, or to some inherent excellence which begets reverence in others. Thus, in the Acts of the Apostles it is reported that St. Paul called Festus "most excellent," and, again, writing to the Colossians he speaks of Luke as "most dear." The Roman Pontiff, too, by reason of the dignity of his office as Vicar of Christ, is called "His Holiness," and so on from time

inmemorial, in all states of life, in all gatherings, whether political, social or religious, dignity or individual merit has been recognized, respected and honored. Now, we believe that the Blessed Virgin, as mother of Jesus Christ, is, in heaven, the nearest to the adorable Trinity, that she ranks far above the other saints, that she is the "Queen of all Saints." How justly, then, is special honor due her, and how justly is she addressed by the titles and names which her beautiful Litany contains.

Moreover, who that has contemplated and devoutly meditated upon the virtues of our dear Lady, has not felt himself drawn more irresistibly to Christ and to a better understanding of His supereminent virtues. St. Gregory Nazianzen, remarkable for his singular scholarship in things divine, spoke thus of St. Athanasius: "Praising Athanasius, I shall praise Virtue; praising virtue, however, I shall praise God. From Whom all virtue proceeds." How much more, then, do we glorify God when we honor His devoted Mother. In order to show and declare the majesty of Christ and His wonderful solicitude for our welfare, we are wont to designate Him by various titles, such as King, Pastor, Advocate, Saviour, Redeemer, etc.

At a meeting held in St. Peter's Hall, by the representative Catholics of the city, on Sunday afternoon, a movement was started in the direction of the formation of a Society devoted to the study of the Holy Scriptures and the history of the Church.

The proposed platform of the Society, which was adopted at the meeting, is as follows: 1. To study the Holy Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, in their original languages, and to give frequent expositions, bar-room, or similar drinking places, 3. Neither to treat nor to accept of any member who is a member of any other Society, 4. To say a prayer every day for the cause of temperance.

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DIocese OF LONDON.

DEDICATION OF A NEW CHURCH AND CONFIRMATION AT PARKHILL AND WILLIAMS. On Sunday last, Dec. 5, the Right Rev. P. McCreary, assisted by the Right Rev. Parkhill and Williams. At 7:30 Sunday the Bishop celebrated Mass at Parkhill and Williams. He then drove five miles to Williams, where Mass was celebrated by Rev. J. Corcoran, assisted by Rev. J. P. Dunne.

A MOVEMENT IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

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NEW BOOKS.

Socialism: Its Theoretical Basis and Practical Application. By Victor Cathelin, S. J. P. O. O. Price \$1.75. 128 pages.

MARKET REPORTS.

London, Dec. 7.—Wheat, per cental—Wheat per cental, \$1.00 to \$1.07; corn, \$0.50 to \$0.55; barley, \$0.50 to \$0.55; clover, \$0.50 to \$0.55; hay, \$0.50 to \$0.55; straw, \$0.50 to \$0.55.

WHAT TO PRAY FOR.

Father Tyrrell, S. J., in his latest book, "Prayer for the World," says: "Prayer for temporal favors that is not implicitly a prayer for grace or that is not at least made with a complete subordination of every interest to the one thing needful (the love of God), is no doubt a superstitious and impious act."

BORN.

In Forest on Nov. 7, 1904, to Mr. and Mrs. Peter Addison, a son.

MARRIED.

At the Church of the Sacred Heart, Mount Kilmartin, by Rev. Father Connolly, Mr. John Duffy to Miss Killa Glynor, both of that place.

DIED.

O'Brien.—In this city on Nov. 30th, Mrs. Ellen O'Brien, relict of the late John O'Brien, aged one hundred and three. May her soul rest in peace.

RAY.—At Waterdown, on Nov. 23, Mr. Francis Ray, aged 81 years. May he rest in peace!

SMALL.—At 1132 Queen Street West, Toronto, on Saturday, Mr. Daniel A. Small. May he rest in peace!

ADDISON.—In Forest on Nov. 8, 1904, Frances beloved wife of Mr. Peter Addison, aged twenty-eight years, two months and twenty days. May her soul rest in peace!

MEEHAN.—At St. Eugene Hospital, Cranbrook, B. C., on Oct. 10, Mr. J. A. Meehan of Cranbrook, B. C. May he rest in peace!

TEACHERS WANTED.

TEACHER WANTED, FEMALE FOR I. Doyle Separate School, No. 1, Raleigh, Ont. Duties to commence Jan. 3, 1905. Address: Thos. Canine, Sec. Doyle, P. O., Ont. 1904.

TEACHER WANTED FOR SEPARATE SCHOOL, No. 11, Lancaster, S. at salary expected and qualifications. Duties to commence Jan. 3, 1905. Apply to D. A. McDougall, Sec. Trsas., Green Valley P. O., Ont. 1904.

TEACHER WANTED HOLDING A SECOND CLASS CERTIFICATE FOR UNION S. S. No. 1, Brougham Co. Ontario, to commence Jan. 2nd, 1905. Apply, stating salary, to John J. Cart, Sec. Trsas., Mt. St. Patrick, P. O., Ont. 1904.

TEACHER WANTED FOR R. C. SEPARATE SCHOOL, No. 5, Somers, a second class professional certificate required. Duties to commence Jan. 3, 1905. Apply, stating salary, to John P. Conlon, Port Lambton, Ont. 1904.

TEACHER WANTED FOR R. C. SEPARATE SCHOOL, No. 11, Lancaster, S. at salary expected and qualifications. Duties to commence Jan. 3, 1905. Apply to D. A. McDougall, Sec. Trsas., Green Valley P. O., Ont. 1904.

TEACHER WANTED FOR THE DEER-ROCK, Separate School (Boys' Section) a female assistant holding second class professional certificate. Applications will be received by the Hon. J. H. McCreary, Sec. Trsas., Deer-Rock, Ont. 1904.

TEACHER WANTED FOR THE SENIOR DEPARTMENT of the Wallaceburg R. C. School, a male teacher. Duties to commence Jan. 2nd, 1905. Testimonials required. Apply, stating salary and qualifications, to M. J. Hurry, Wallaceburg, Ont. 1904.

WANTED A CATHOLIC TEACHER FOR PUBLIC S. S. No. 7, of West Williams, Ontario, to commence Jan. 3, 1905. Apply, stating salary and experience in teaching if any. Applications will be received by J. D. McCreary, Parkhill, Ont. 1904.

WANTED A TEACHER FOR R. C. S. NO. 9. Admission duties to commence Jan. 3, 1905. Apply, stating salary and experience, to Jas. Samson Gorman, P. O., Ont. 1904.

TEACHER WANTED MALE, CATHOLIC, for Hamilton College, Kingston, to take Classics and either English and French or Latin. Salary \$800. Apply, stating qualifications, to Mr. W. H. Brink, H. A. Principal. 1904.

CATHOLIC LADY TEACHER WANTED. Apply to O. Bissoneite, S. Joseph Huron Co., Ont. 1904.

MALE OR FEMALE TEACHER HOLDING FIRST or second class certificate, male preferred, for R. C. S. No. 3, Dover South Village, Paqueton. Capable of teaching both French and English. Salary and experience expected. Duties to begin Jan. 3, next. Apply Chief, Sec. Trsas. D. A. McDougall, 1904.

TEACHER WANTED FEMALE FOR SCHOOL, No. 4, Westmoreland, to teach French and English. Apply, stating salary and experience, to J. D. McCreary, Parkhill, Ont. 1904.

TEACHER WANTED FOR SEPARATE SCHOOL, Section No. 11, Lancaster, S. at salary expected and qualifications. Duties to commence in January, next. Apply, stating salary and qualifications, to D. A. McDougall, Sec. Trsas., Green Valley P. O., Ont. 1904.



HOBBS

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FABIOLA

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BOOKS.

- For sale at the Catholic Record Office London, Ont. postpaid. AN EVERY DAY GIRL.—By Mary T. Green. 45 ADVENTURES OF MICHAEL Dwyer. By John Thomas Campton, M. D. 1.06 AN ORIGINAL GIRL.—By Christine Faber. With eight full-page illustrations. 1.25

MEMORIAL WINDOWS ART GLASS. H. E. ST. GEORGE, London, Canada. CATHOLIC HOME ANNUAL. The Catholic Home Annual for 1905 (New York: Benziger Bros.) has just reached us, and we have nothing but words of praise for the manner in which it is turned out.

Statues Statues. Pastique Statues, beautifully decorated. Subjects.—Sacred Heart, Holy Heart of Mary, Immaculate Conception, St. Joseph and St. Anthony. St. Patrick, 12 inch, \$1.00.

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