

Pastoral Letter



JOHN WALSH—*by the Grace of God and the appointment of the Holy See, Archbishop of Toronto.*

To the Clergy, Religious and Faithful of the Archdiocese, Health and Benediction in the Lord.

DEARLY BELOVED BRETHREN,—On the approach of the beautiful month of May, sacred to our Blessed Lady, we deem it a duty to address you some remarks on devotion to the august Mother of God, and on the spiritual fruits that may be gathered therefrom. What the month of May is in the order of nature, that, in the mind of the church, the Blessed Virgin is in the order of Grace. May is the springtime of the year, the month of hope and promise, the harbinger of the bright Summer, the fairest and most beautiful queen of the year, decked out in all its fresh young beauty, and fragrant with blossoms and flowers. "Winter is now past, the rain is over and gone, the flowers have appeared in our land, the time of pruning is come, the voice of the turtle is heard, the fig-tree hath put forth her green figs, the vines in flower yield their sweet smell." (Canticles, ii. 12-13). The cold, stormy winter is past, Nature has risen from its tomb, and has awakened into a new life. The voice of Spring is heard on the hills and in the valleys, and behold the fields are robed in brightest green, the trees bring forth leaves and blossoms, the gardens are fragrant with flowers, the woods are vocal with the sweet music of singing birds, the air is resonant with sounds of joy and gladness, and all nature is clothed with a vesture of the most varied beauty.