

on; *one* Lord.
of all, who is
(Eph. 4c.) Oh!
ould it come
and Joseph!
for the Ven-
Bishop, priests
h persevering
s holy confrat-
nd neighbourly

e the consider-
eit spiritual, in
s interests and
homage to the
rable mystery of
h in the cottage
is mystery in its
ames embraces
ord, the Virgin
foster-father of
hood, and His
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Eternal born in
n's breast. The
Virginity in ma-
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e "just man" of
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Child, represent
soul with soul in
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Christian fatherhood, as a communication of the divine paternity for the rearing of God's children "in wisdom and age and grace" unto life everlasting. Had it pleased the Father in Godhead of Our Lord Jesus Christ to present Him to the eyes of men not otherwise than in full-grown perfection of manhood, after the manner of the first Adam's creation, independent of a mother's nursing, unindebted to a father's care and protection, the dogma of the Incarnation would have been only half revealed; its heaven-born virtues, destined to serve unto the latest generation for a perfect pattern of childhood, and motherhood, and paternal guardianship in the order of Christian life, would have been withheld from human knowledge; its sweet, attractive influence in the domestic circle for purity of morals and refinement of manners and chastening of natural affections between husbands and wives, parents and children, would be to this day unfelt and unimagined; and the family household would still perhaps remain unadorned by the many virtues, begotten of the Incarnation, that now constitute its dignity and true happiness, and reflect glory on our holy religion by contrast with the unspeakable turpitude of the Pagan home and the servile bondage in which the gentle spirit of womanhood was crushed between the millstones of polygamy and divorce even under the Mosaic Dispensation. No wonder the Apostle of the Gentiles, contemplating the sublimity of this doctrine of the Incarnation, should exclaim in the fervour of his faith and love, "Evidently great is the *mystery of piety*, which was manifested in the flesh, was justified in the spirit, appeared to angels, hath been preached in the Nations, is believed in the world, is taken up in glory" (1 Tim. 3c.). To this "great mystery of piety" we pay the homage of our daily devotion in honouring the Holy Family of Nazareth: under its patronage we place ourselves every time we implore the protection of Jesus, Mary and Joseph; and from the divine fountain of the Incarnation, through the five wounds of the crucified Saviour, we hope to draw the living waters of grace