

LIFE OF ST. JOANNA OF TOULOUSE, CARMELITE NUN.

BY L'ABBE BAURENS DE MOLINIER.

PART II—CHAPTER I.

VENERATION OF ST. JOANNA—HISTORY OF THE DEVOTION PAID TO THE GREAT SERVANT OF GOD—ITS PROGRESS WITH ADVANCING YEARS—DEVOTION TO THE SAINT FROM THE YEAR 1471 TO 1688



T. JOANNA, who had been so deeply venerated during her holy life, became an object of far greater devotion after death had opened for her the gates of Paradise.

It could not have been otherwise, in view of the miracles which, day after day, were performed at her tomb, and which are related, although in an abridged form, by the anonymous author of some ancient Carmelite chronicles.

These inventories of titles and documents (written in 1676) are preserved in the archives of the monastery of Grands Carmes at Toulouse. We read herein :

“ St. Joanna, a native of Toulouse, daughter of a most noble and illustrious house, and Foundress, in the said city, of the Third Order of Sisters of the ever glorious Virgin Mary, died in the year 1286, and was buried in the monastery church of Grand Carmes of Toulouse. Tradition has designated the hallowed spot as the Chapel of St. Martial, dedicated, later on, to St. Honora and eventually placed under the patronage of St. Mary Magdalene of Pazzi.

“ In the year 1509, on the twentieth day of October, in consequence of the

many miracles which were performed, and are still of daily occurrence, through the invocation of this glorious saint, Monseigneur, the Archbishop of Toulouse, Bernard de Rosergio, caused the blessed remains of the saint to be raised with all due solemnity, and was himself the celebrant upon the memorable occasion.

“ He granted an Indulgence of forty days to all those who would visit the holy relics, after which a most eloquent and devotional sermon was preached by Reverend Father Ruppe, of the Carmelite Order.

“ The impression made by this solemnity was so much the more profound and permanent, because he who had conceived and carried out the undertaking was a prelate whose great learning was only excelled by the holiness of his life. His happy death occurred soon afterwards, but not until he had given his approbation to the life of the glorious saint which was published at Toulouse.

“ Her tomb was constantly visited by throngs of the faithful, and the daily miracles were the admiration of all.

The sacred relics were then placed in another chapel—beside the choir—dedicated to St. Laurence and St. Joanna, and the picture of our saint was beautifully portrayed upon one of the stained glass windows. The following inscription, in the vernacular, was