

Patrons of Parishes

SAINT JOACHIM

IT was the feast of St. Anne. No less than 6,000 pilgrims had flocked to the shrine of Ste Anne de Beaupré; they were astonished at the beauties of the Basilica and the devotion to the Thaumaturga of Canada. A group consisting of Catholics and Protestants had separated from the crowd and had come to visit a side chapel dedicated to St. Joachim. At the sight of St. Anne's spouse, a pious discussion arose and a missionary was selected as umpire.

« My father, said a pilgrim, we are having some slight difficulties, will you kindly help us to solve them? We see for instance, that St. Anne is greatly honored but does it not seem to you that St. Joachim is too much forgotten? »

« My friends, replied the missionary, calm your minds. Remember that at Rome a new church has been built and dedicated to St. Joachim. This monument, as you know, has been erected by the Catholics of the whole world in memory of the sacerdotal and episcopal jubilee of Our Holy Father, Pope Leo XIII. His Holiness has expressed his joy and gratitude for this sublime testimonial of veneration for his heavenly patron. Is it not providential to see St. Joachim glorified at Rome and to see the festival of that saint elevated to the double rite of the second class for the whole Church? Moreover the saint is venerated not only in Rome but in Jerusalem, in the church of the Holy Sepulchre, where his tomb is situated; at Cologne where a portion of his head is preciously preserved; at Bologna in Italy where there are other relics of the father of the Blessed Virgin. Then is there not the devotion to him in Canada and the United States? Has he not a church or an altar in many Catholic countries? St. Joachim is a very illustrious saint and more venerated than you think! »