

take deep root and to bring forth precious fruits in after years.

At the tender age of six he lost both his parents, and although not able to fully realize his bereavement, still he did not forget to put in practice the lessons of confidence and resignation which were often taught him at his mother's knee. He looked towards Heaven, and asked the Father of orphans, the Father who alone can console the afflicted, not to abandon him in his hour of trial.

Nunzio's prayer was heard. He was taken in charge by his maternal grandmother, a woman remarkable for her practical piety and special devotion to the Mother of God. From the moment she received him in her house, she consecrated her time entirely to his bringing up. Virtue she regarded as the first and greatest prize, and this, by word and example, she constantly helped him to acquire.

Nunzio had ever been a model pupil at home. We are not surprised, therefore, to read the sworn testimony of his first professor. "Nunzio," says the Venerable Father Nicolas Fantucci, "studied with untiring zeal, and, by nature a gifted child, made rapid progress in his studies. He could not understand why his young classmates did not seem to find the same pleasure in study as himself, nor why they showed so little ardor compared with his own. The carelessness of some, the limited talents of others greatly annoyed him, but he took advantage of this to cultivate brotherly love and to put it in practice under—what seemed to him then—such trying circumstances. He rebuked their negligence, corrected their faults, and never ceased to encourage them to do better.

If he was untiring in his zeal to acquire worldly science, he was not less so in his endeavors to learn that of the saints. At no time was he more attentive than during his class of catechism. With his large, brilliant eyes