

Lord Jesus presents to us His Holy Mother gloriously triumphing over sin and hell. Who but must see that by His introducing Her with all the lustre of Her glorious triumph as the bright star of the sea, or the luminous sign of His alliance amidst the storms that convulse the world, He intended to afford to His Church, agitated and tossed by the stormy waves, and threatened with shipwreck, a signal proof of His promised assistance, and a peremptory pledge of salvation, giving us all thereby to understand that it is through Mary that He has resolved to save us, that having bequeathed Her to us for our Mother, and committed our protection to Her maternal care, He is desirous that we should have recourse to Her in all our wants and temptations; that through Her we may be delivered from all dangers, and obtain an easy victory over all the assaults of the world and of the devil, and that being placed under Her powerful protection we may have nothing to fear?

And our sweet and Divine Mother who to-day receives from the Church a new meed of honor, She who has always proved herself to be the help and protection of the Christian people, will she, unmoved and indifferent, hear the accents of praise and strains of love, which like a melodious concert, now ascend to Heaven from the hearts of all Her children? Does She not owe them, and will She not grant them, fresh proofs of Her tender charity and visible signs of Her protection? Oh! little indeed would we be acquainted with the heart of Mary, if we could entertain the slightest apprehension or hesitation in this respect!

But you especially, children of the Church of Quebec, what lively emotions of holy joy, and sweet confidence ought not the definition of the Immaculate Conception of Mary to excite within your breasts! For it is indeed Mary, inasmuch as She was conceived without sin, who is the Patroness of the Cathedral of Quebec, and consequently of all the faithful of the Diocese; it is indeed under the protection of Mary, inasmuch as She was conceived without sin, that you have been placed in an especial manner from the first settlement of this Colony and that you have grown and increased and have preserved your Faith in the midst of innumerable dangers and trials: it is indeed Mary, inasmuch as She was conceived without Sin, whom you have ever honoured and invoked, when celebrating the solemn festival of the Conception. What a triumph, what a holy consolation for you to hear, on this occasion, this magnificent title confirmed by the oracles of Heaven!

Prepare yourselves then to celebrate, with the rapturous delights of holy joy, this happy event, which must be the fruitful source of grace and happiness to the universal church, and to yourselves in particular. To a worthy celebration of Mary's glory, the example of Catholics throughout the world should incite you; your own sincere devotion and gratitude, towards the Blessed Virgin, should enforce it as a duty, and you are also invited by the Sovereign Pontiff himself. For by a