

## PROMOTERS' PAGE.

Friday, January 1st, is not only a good day to begin the year well, but it offers a beautiful opportunity to begin the devotion of the Nine First Fridays. This devotion is founded on the following promise made by Our Lord to the Blessed Margaret Mary: *I promise thee, in the excessive mercy of My Heart, that Its all-powerful love will grant to all those who receive communion on the FIRST FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH, FOR NINE CONSECUTIVE MONTHS, the GRACE OF FINAL PERSEVERANCE, and that they SHALL NOT DIE UNDER MY DISPLEASURE, nor without receiving their sacraments, and My Heart will be their secure refuge at that last hour.*

Eternity hangs on the last moment of life. It will be too late then to prepare, so we must *keep prepared*. The grace of final perseverance, the most precious of all, cannot be merited, but it can be secured by prayer which, if persevered in, will obtain for us a chain of graces reaching to the moment of death. Holy Communion is the most powerful of prayers, and has for its special fruit and end to put us in possession of *everlasting life*, according to the promise of Our Lord in the Gospel (St. John, vi), on condition that we correspond to the grace given. Not that holy communion, even on nine successive Fridays, grants an impunity to sin, but, as St. Bernard teaches, "This Sacrament produces two effects in us: It diminishes the inclination to slight faults, and it takes away our consent to grievous sins." If this is the effect of one communion, what shall we say of nine in succession to comply with a *special desire* of Our Lord confirmed by a *special promise*.

It is a fact of experience, that those who have made the Nine First Fridays are not less careful to avoid sin than they were before or than others who never made them. Many derive such fruit and consolation from the practice that they repeat it many times in their life, and not a few become regular and *frequent* communicants.