song in the thick voice of a drunken

"But I more blessed than they Spend each happy night and day With my charming little Cruiskeen Lawn—"

Mike Casey's staggering footsteps were soming to the door of his own house, where his only son was dying. Long Pat went out to stop him.

"Devenin,' Pat," he hiccoughed.
"Fine shower we had."

Shut up, or—"
Don' min' me, Pat. I'm a little

He pushed in.

'D evenin,' all of you. Fine lot

No one answered. He looked tothere, his wife sitting motionless by the side. Half dazed, without a word, he rushed into the open air, and plunged his head in a bucket of water. The shock, the cold douche sobered him. He entered quietly, and stood

silent for a few moments.
"Honor, Honor," he whispered. She looked sorrowfully towards him, then turned to her child. "Oh, God, what will I do?' he said. The disbelief was gone, the faith of his childhood has returned in the face of great tribulation. He

"I've been a fool. Forgive my sins. Punish me, but give her back

Honor understood all at that instant. Joy sprang into her eyes. Her prayers were at last auswered. Her years of anxious waiting had not been in vain. She had lost her son; it was hard. Still the thought that sacrifice had won her husband k brought balm to her soul.

"Oh, God pity her!" he continued,
"give her back her boy. He's more
to her than I am." A long shudder passed over the

body of the child, as if in answer to the prayer. Then the eyes opened. "Daddy, mammy, where was I?"

She clasped him impetuously to er heart. Was not God ten thouher heart. sand times more than good! Her husband and her boy were hers again! —M. Kenny, in The Irish Rosary.

GENERAL INTENTION FOR MARCH

RECOMMENDED AND BLESSED BY HIS HOLINESS PIUS X.

DEVOTION TO ST. JOSEPH

There is no mention of this great patriarch in the Bible except what is found in the first and third Gospels. His name is met with in apocryphal works and in ancient martyrologies, but this distinction was given him chiefly because he was considered the last of the Old Testament saints. It would be hard to believe, however that in the course of ages, mystics and other pious persons, had not studied the life of the Spouse of Mary or nourished their souls with the lessons to be drawn from the Gospe story; but authors tell us that public devotion to him, as we understand it now, was quite unheard of. Any feast dedicated to his honor was unthe fifteenth century, when St. Vincent Ferrer and St. Bernadine of Siena became zealous promoters of devotion to St. Joseph. Through their efforts Pope Sixtus IV. was per suaded to give public recognition to his cult and to introduce his feast into the Roman calendar. More recent saints, like St. Teresa, St. Francis of Sales, and others, were also zealous promoters of the devotion. Urban VIII., in 1642, made the feast a holy day of obligation, and Bene dict XIII., in 1726, inserted the name of St. Joseph in the Litany of the Saints. In 1871 Pius IX. placed the Universal Church under his protect-orship, and, in the language of the ritual, raised his feast to a "double of the first class."

This is an imperfect outline of the history of the devotion to St. Joseph, and what one marvels at is that it took a saint, so highly privileged, so long a time to come into his own. It | eth ! have been a special dispensation of Providence, which arranges all things wisely and well, that the prerogatives enjoyed by this glorious patriarch were not fully recognized, and that it was reserved till later ages for men to profit by the lessons of his life.

As Mary was the woman chosen by God for the most sublime role filled the Church is such as can be given highly, will not then turn a deaf ear to no other saint. He is called a to his intercession on our behalf. just man" in Holy Scripture, words of praise so great that it would be impossible to receive greater, or from a more authorized source. And yet we should not be surprised; St. Joseph acquired his justice and his holiness in a wonderful school. To have been chosen spouse of the incomparable Mother of God, to have lived in her company for many years, pro-tecting her and earning bread for her, is a privilege that must surely have been for the great and good man a source of the sublime virtues. Imagine if we can what an influence the life and example of the spotless Mary, daily before his eyes, must have had on the heart and soul of

also the foster-father and natural protector of the Child of Mary Who was the Son of God made man. He spent long years in familiar intercourse with the Incarnate Word at Nazareth, in Egypt and probably in Galilee. Artists revel in presenting him on their canvasses with the Infant Saviour in his arms or work-Infant Saviour in his arms or working with Him in his carpenter's shop. Joseph saw Jesus growing from infancy to youth; for twelve years at least,—probably longer, for we know not when the patriarch died—he lived in intimate relationship with the Redeemer of men. During those delicious years he heard words of wisdom talling from the lips of Widdom. dom falling from the lips of Wisdom Itself; undoubtedly he had confided to Him many of the secrets of the Most High. Until his death Joseph had the Divine Model constantly be-fore him where he could contemplate Him and appreciate Him in senti ments of rapturous love. He literally lived in the presence of God and as a result he stored up treasures he died with Jesus Himself near his pillow, promising him heaven as the end of his well-filled life. What a

wonderful career!
And yet the life and example of this just man was more or less hidden from our view for centuries.
It is a hard task to sound the depths fell on his knees.

"Oh, God?" he cried in shame, we dare not venture that far; but God evidently had His own reasons for withholding the example of St. Joseph from the world for so long a time, thereby preventing the devotion to this great saint from flower-ing in the souls of hundreds of mil-lions. However the Church has at last given him to us as a model to study and admire, while at the same time she urges us to seek opportuni ties to invoke his intercessory power. This should not be a difficult task for us, for St. Joseph, having been the head of the holiest family that ever lived, is a model for men in every walk of life, just as he is the pro-tector of Christian homes, and the patron of a good death.

Those in lofty station can learn to

be humble like Joseph, who was of the royal house of David. If they fulfil honorable functions among their fellowmen those functions are not greater than the ones exercised by St. Joseph, who was the foster father of the world's Redeemer. The poor and lowly who have to earn their bread in the sweat of their brow, may get inspirations from the Carpenter of Nazareth. The example given us by him and his Foster Son teaches us that manual labor is not dishonorable, that poverty borne in the spirit that prevailed in the little worksho at the prevalled in the little workshop at Nazareth, is the poverty that becomes wealth in the world to come. The meager Gospel story tells us that besides his poverty, he had his trials in life, sorrows and doubts and contrarieties which his own reason could not well justify and which to our limited vision appeared so foreign to limited vision appeared so foreign to the wisdom and justice of God. How, for instance, could unaided human reason explain the rebuff received by him at the inn at Bathlehem? or the mystery of the birth of the Son of God in a stable? or the sudden order to fly to Egypt away from a mere earthly tyrant who was powerless to do evil unless the would be Victim have troubled the soul of Joseph, but he blindly followed the directions he blindly followed the directions given from heaven and relied on the Supreme Wisdom to make all things right in the end. His is an illustrious example of complete submission to the will of God. His humility, prudence, charity and abnegation of self in the exercise of his office were also admirable. "He concealed the self in the electrons of the concealed the great secret of Almighty God," says a pious author, "and no ray of the after glory of Jesus in His public acter glory of Jesus in Jesuph's quiet reer brightened St.

and humble life." As the protector of Christian families we have simply to contemplate him at Nazareth, giving his orders with authority and receiving the veneration and obedience due the head of the first Christian family that ever existed. What an atmosphere of piety and cheerfulness, peace and fidelity, unselfishness and love, must have surrounded the home at Nazar

But it is as the patron of a goo death that the example and power of St. Joseph should appeal to us. At that supreme moment in his own life he had the consolation of resting his head in the arms of Jesus; while he heard falling from the Divine lips hose pious aspirations that help to strengthen a departing soul. How consoling to die as Joseph died! If by woman, so Joseph was the man during cur lives we are devout to thosen from among all men to be this great saint, we too may confidently hope to experience his power to a position unique in the history of our race; his rank in the calendar of

> As a pledge of our good will, let us honor this great patriarch especially during the present month which is dedicated to his memory. Let us thank him for the assiduou care he took of the Immaculate Mother and her Divine Son. Let us congratulate him for the high dignity with which he was clad, and praise him for the treasures of grace which he received, for the virtues he prac-ticed, and for the example of the beautiful life he gave us. So hidden was his life from the eyes of men, that for many centuries St. Joseph was practically unknown to us, but God has rewarded him in these later ages by bringing him to the fore even from among the saints. Devotion to the great St. Joseph is growing in the Church, and the incidents of his career as studied in the cidents of his career as studied in



an age such as ours when the disruption of homes and the loss of the Christian spirit in families are so prevalent, a sublime model and intercessor was needed to whom the world might turn for inspiration and help. This leads us to believe that the de-This votion to the Spouse of Mary is still in its first developments, that in the designs of God the example of the life of St. Joseph is destined to have greater and more consoling results on the

THE MONTH OF MARCH

E. J. DEVINE, S. J.

March, to most people, stands out as a month cold and chill with pierc ing winds and blustering days. Yet we should feel glad when the month of March arrives, for it brings with it the first intimations of spring—that most beautiful season of resurrec

Apart from all this, however, we should be filled with joy when March comes, for it is the month especially set saids to honor St. Joseph, the for ter father of Our Saviour. Next to the Mother of God he is the most powerful saint and advocate in heaven. In a special manner he is the patron of youth, since by Divine appointment he was the guardian of Our Saviour's infancy. He watched over Our Lord's youth with a most cealous care and love. So, too, does he specially watch over and guard all those who ask his powerful intercession. St. Theresa asked from St. Joseph any favor which I did not receive." And St Thomas tells us that St. Josepa will btain for us help, not only in one but in every necessity. Moreover, St. Joseph is the patron of the dying. It should be the chief aim of our lives to live so that we may die a death like St. Joseph did in the arms of Jesus and Mary. Every Catholic knows by heart the prayer to St. Joseph for a happy death. They should begin the very first day of March and say the prayer every day. It is a most beautitul prayer, and carries with it an indulgence. Indeed we should say it every day in the year and if we do we shall get the grace of a happy death since we shall have Jesus, Mary and Joseph for our "in-tercessors." If these be on our side, nothing else matters; we cannot be

UNCHANGING ROME

The world has not failed to attack the immutability of the Church and her doctrines. And surely it is an challenge to mankind! Therefore all ages, jealous of glory which dis-dained their own, have tried their strength against it. They have come, one after the other, to the doors of the Vatican; they have knocked there with buskin and boot, and the doctrine has appeared under the frail and wasted form of some old man of three score years and ten, who says

What do you desire of me?' "Change."

"I never change." "But everything is changed in this World. Astronomy, chemistry, philosophy have changed, the empire has changed, why are you always the same?"

"Because I came from God, and be cause God is always the same?' "But you know that we are the masters; we have a million of men under arms; we shall draw the sword; the sword which breaks down head of an old man and tear up the leaves of a book."

"Do so: blood is the aroma in which I recover my youthful vigor."
"Well, then, here is half my sceptre;
make a sacrifice to peace and let us

share it together." "Keep thy purple, Caesar. To-morrowthey will bury thee in it; and we will chant over thee the 'Alleluia' and the 'De Profundis,' which never change."—Lacordaire.

TWO ITEMS THAT WILL NOT BE SEEN IN THE MENACE

a formal decree recently entered at Joplin, the Menace was found guilty of libeling Rev. Father Rossman of Wheeling, W. Va., and the sum of \$1,500 was awarded to the But a grace still greater was reserved for the one already so highly favored. He was not merely the spouse of the woman declared by an angel to be "full of grace," he was

such. American law will not sustain it. The torrent of abuse, therefore, will be diverted henceforth against the Church. But unfortunately for this new crusade of the Menace, the Government has taken a hand in the matter. Continued attention has been called to the gross abuse endured by Catholics through abuse endured by Catholics through the torrent of filth weekly poured out against them from Aurora, Mo. The Federal district attorney was directed to take legal action for the abatement of this nuisance. On Jan. 14, before a Federal grand jury, sitting at Jop-lin, the owners of the Menace—Phelps, Brown and Reverend Walker—were indicted on the charge of sending obscene and filthy matter through the mails. Of course this is only the first step towards proving them guilty of the crime charged. It is the general opinion, however, that the including the conviction will head to conviction. dictment will lead to conviction The happy trie stand a mighty fine show of a sojourn in three quiet cells. Even to such men who coined filthy lic mind, a nice penitentiary sen-tence might be salutary. Without undue malice, here's hoping.—New

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The universality of the Church is best shown by turning to the foreign missions for an example. We have heard of priests, mostly French, who have received decorations for research work, but the one who seems to be most worthy of attention just now is an Irish priest, a member of the Society of Jesus. Father Ken-nelly, S. J., is connected with the mission of Shanghai, China. He has a brother who is a parish priest in Australia and two sisters members of the Mercy Sisters of California. They belong to a North Kerry family

in Ireland.

This Chinese Irish priest speaks English, French, Spanish, Italian, several Chinese dialects and is proud of his knowledge of his own Irish tongue. His many years' sojourn among the Chinese has given him an intimate yiew of the Orient and his contributions to various magazines, religious and secular, are of great alue.-Church Progress.

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