

song in the thick voice of a drunken man: "But I more blessed than they...

Mike Conroy's staggering footsteps were coming to the door of his own house, where his only son was dying...

"Honour, Honour," he whispered. She looked scornfully towards him, then turned to her child.

"Oh, God, what will I do?" he said. The disbelief was gone, the faith of his childhood had returned in the face of great tribulation.

"Oh, God!" she cried in shame. "I've been a fool. Forgive my sins, Father, me, but give her back to me."

Honor understood all at that instant. Joy sprang into her eyes. Her prayers were at last answered.

A long shudder passed over the body of the child, as if in answer to the prayer. Then the eyes opened.

"Daddy, daddy, where was I?" he asked. She clasped him impetuously to her heart. Was not God ten thousand times more than good!

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 Gospel 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 unknown in the Eastern Church until the fifteenth century, when St. Vincent Ferrer and St. Bernardino of Siena became zealous promoters of devotion to St. Joseph.

Through their efforts Pope Sixtus IV. was persuaded to give public recognition to his cult and to introduce his feast into the Roman calendar.

More recent saints, like St. Theresa, 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 Benedict 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 protection, and in the language of the ritual, raised his feast to a "double of the first class."

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 his canvases with the 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 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 before him where he could contemplate Him and appreciate Him in sentiments of rapturous love.

He literally lived in the presence of God; and as a result he stored up treasures of holiness in his soul. In the end 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 of the mysteries of Providence, and we dare not venture 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 flowering in the souls of hundreds of millions.

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 opportunities 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 protector 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 by him and his Foster-Son teaches that manual labor is not dishonorable, that poverty borne in the spirit that prevailed in the little workshop at Nazareth, is the poverty that becomes wealth in the world to come.

The messenger Gospel story tells us that besides his poverty, he had his trials in life, sorrows and doubts and contradictions which his own reason could not well justify and which to our 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 Bethlehem? 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 permitted it?



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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.

THE MONTH OF MARCH March, to most people, stands out as a month cold and chill with piercing winds and blustering days.

Apert from all this however, we should be filled with joy when March comes, for it is the month especially set aside to honor St. Joseph, the foster 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 zealous care and love. So, too, does he specially watch over and guard all those who ask his powerful intercession.

St. Theresa writes: "I do not remember having asked from St. Joseph any favor which I did not receive."

And St. Thomas tells us that St. Joseph will obtain 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 beautiful 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.

UNCHANGING ROME The world has not failed to attack the immutability of the Church and her doctrines.

And surely it is an extraordinary privilege, a prodigy, a challenge to mankind! Therefore, all ages, jealous of glory which disdained their own, have tried their strength against it.

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 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 Joplin, 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 indictment will lead to conviction.

The happy trio stand a mighty fine show of a sojourn in three quiet cells. Even to such men who coined filthy dollars in trying to befoul the public mind, a nice penitentiary sentence might be salutary.

Without undue malice, here's hoping.—New World.

AN IRISH PRIEST WHO SPEAKS CHINESE AND SEVERAL OTHER LANGUAGES 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 Kennedy, 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 view of the Orient and his contributions to various magazines, religious and secular, are of great value.—Church Progress.

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