

Blessed Virgin Mary in his favor ; for to Her he had confided the important affair of his vocation and of the choice of the religious family that he would enter.

Already, while in the world, he had excelled in devotion toward Mary. This made him say later on : « What a happy moment it was for me, O Mary, when I heard thy name while still a child. My heart bounds with joy on hearing thy sweet name. » Then he recited the rosary every day and frequently withdrew aside to pray. He was heard to recite the Lord's prayer and the angelic salutation and he repeated them as many as ten times with ever-increasing devotion. One of his aunts relates that while Alfred was spending some days with her during his holidays, she saw him on several occasions kneeling before a picture of the Blessed Virgin. He remained there over an hour, motionless as a statue. In order not to divert his attention she withdrew quietly not without great admiration at the sight of that earthly angel. He was observed to go to confession and to holy communion at first every fortnight and shortly afterward every week. As to the festivals of the Blessed Virgin, he never missed them.

After he entered the Institute of St. Alphonsus, that apostle of Mary's glories, Alfred was able to give vent to his affection for his heavenly protectress. With what joy did he not read above the entrance of the novitiate this chronogram : *Mater Dei sis intranti janua cæli* : Mother of God be the gate of heaven to him who enters here ! Who can relate all the manifestations of respect and filial piety with which he loved to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary ? Alfred had asked the Blessed Virgin to instruct him herself in the true devotion that should be professed to her. « O sweet Mary, he wrote, O my good mother, lend me your aid and be pleased, I beg you, to teach me the true devotion that your children should have for you ! » A colleague who lived five years with this devout servant of Mary, tells us where Father Alfred obtained his great knowledge of the Blessed Virgin and how he was ever faithful in honoring and loving his good Mother.

« To know Mary in her relations with God and with us ; on the one hand to respect her and consecrate to her one's def-