



REVERENCE FOR THE POOR.

GENERAL INTENTION FOR APRIL.

*Named by the Cardinal Protector and blessed by the
Pope for all the Associates.*

THERE are different classes of poor that have claim on our reverence and respect. There are poor beggars who hold out their hand in appeal to the charity of the public. There are poor monks and religious who have voluntarily stripped themselves by vow of all worldly possessions to follow more perfectly the example of Christ and the counsels of the Gospel. By the poor in a still wider sense we may understand all who are not *rich*, all who, whether by their own choice or fault or by force of circumstances of which Divine Providence alone holds control, are subject in some degree to privation and want. It is the language of Christ Himself in the Gospel that warrants us in thus dividing mankind at large in two great classes— the rich and the poor. The same language as well as the teaching of the Catholic Church tells us most emphatically that we are to prefer the poor, that we are to reverence, respect and love their state more than that of the rich.