

peculiarly threatened by these dangers, it is not surprising that the church, ever solicitous for her little ones, should omit nothing to protect them from evil. Knowing that example is more powerful than words, she endeavors to place before them youthful models, who, in spite of the dangers and temptations that surrounded them, have continued to walk in the paths of innocence.

First among these stands the beloved name of Aloysius, who, for three centuries, has been regarded as the true model and guardian angel of christian youth.

While engaged in honoring their heavenly patron, let us hasten to place before our youth one who has been his most faithful imitator.

Such was the young workman, Nunzio Sulpizio. His father, an honest, industrious man, had settled in Pescoscansonesco—the name may sound a little barbarous to Western ears—a small village in central Italy, where he carried on the laborious and by-no-means lucrative business of rope-making. He found in Rose Lusianii a worthy companion of his life and labors.

In this village was born on the 13th April, 1817, the subject of this sketch.

According to the pious custom of Catholic countries, the child, a few hours after birth, was presented at the baptismal font. As his parents professed a special devotion to the Blessed Virgin, who is invoked in this part of Italy under the title of Mary of the Annunciation, they decided to give their son the name of Nunzio, and to place him under the special protection of the virginal Mother, in order that she might make him an Announcer of the glad tidings of redemption. No name could have better suited the predestined child.

His first years were spent under the care of his pious parents, who unceasingly instilled into his young mind those lessons of piety and virtue which were destined to