

in the work of His mercy? Nothing less than such a position, joined to unheard-of goodness, can explain the multitude of graces due to their powerful intercession. By those who have not had the happiness of experiencing them, the bounties of St-Anne are not sufficiently known; the care she takes of her devoted clients, the attention and amiability she lavishes on those who assiduously honor her, seem to be generally ignored.

Oh! if we only knew how indulgent she is and how much she loves us? Let us make use of a familiar comparison. See what passes in the family-circle, see the tenderness, sometimes verging on weakness, of grand-mothers for their grand children; how many caresses, how many acts of indulgence and prayers of intercession, are used in their behalf. This increased affection and tenderness towards the offspring of a second generation is rooted in nature, for it is of all times and places. We believe that St. Anne bears towards us that same love; her kindness, without any imperfection, is more compassionate, more indulgent still than that of a mother; she embraces in her unspeakable tenderness the adoptive children of Mary and Joseph; the brothers of Jesus, weak and poor as they are, excite her merciful compassion; her desire for their salvation and their happiness is so lively and so ardent, that she does not even wait for their prayers, but grants them before they are spoken.

Persons unacquainted with her devotion may perhaps accuse us of exaggerating; but, we are sure that we do not surprise her true servants, especially in those countries which, despite the efforts of revolutionary impiety, have remained faithful to her. In those privileged places, one never despairs of obtaining a grace; when all resources and all intercessions have been exhausted, she is still invoked with a confidence justified by centuries of marvels. How many souls bless the day on which they knocked at her door! How many consider as a remarkable favor of Mary,