



RESPECT FOR ALL WHO ARE IN AUTHORITY.

GENERAL INTENTION FOR FEBRUARY.

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

REVERENCE for the majesty of God is our first and most essential duty. Even in the creation as before a shrine we ought to adore the sovereign greatness which preserves, governs and fills all things. Among creatures themselves some stand out for our peculiar regard and veneration as radiant in a more resplendent manner with the supreme majesty. Such are all who in any way represent the divine authority.

In strict truth, as we are taught by faith and reason, there can be no lawful authority but what is divine. The Apostle takes care to inculcate that there is no authority except from God. It is the attraction of gravitation, centered chiefly in the suns, which keeps the heavenly bodies in the orbits marked out for them, and produces the beautiful harmony which reigns in the spheres. Likewise in the moral world of men's actions and relations it is the influence of authority, communicated by God to those who represent His greatness and majesty, which keeps each in his place, establishes order and peace, and governs all things gently but powerfully to the fulfillment of their destiny.