

ST. JOSEPH PROTECTS HIS CLIENTS.

St. Joseph, Refuge of Poor Sinners, at the Hour of Death.

"Some years have passed," said the priest, "since I beheld extended upon his death-bed a young man, twenty years of age. Given the care of his soul, I placed him under the protection of St. Joseph, and it was on the first of March that I gave him the Holy Eucharist and administered the last anointing.

Although he had always kept up some practices of religion, perhaps even more than strict obligation required, he had never evinced any special piety. Now, however, it was not long before I perceived a wonderful change. Eight days after he had received Holy Communion, he said to me, Father, I do not know how to thank him." He evinced the most tender sentiments of devotion and love to the Holy Eucharist, the Blessed Virgin and St. Joseph. Not long after he had received, he said to me, "Will you not soon bring me Holy Communion? O! if my young friends only knew the strength that is contained in that heavenly food." On the eve of his death he said, "If our Lord would call me now, I would be happy." Then he added, "I am very ill. I am going soon to see the Blessed Virgin in heaven—O! Father, pray for me!"

Some hours afterwards on Wednesday, the day of the week dedicated to St. Joseph, he died. It was in Holy Week, and he died with the image of his Saviour on the Cross in his hands. His last words, uttered in the most touching accents of love and devotion, were: "O! Jesus, I am about to die for Thee, as Thou didst die for me. Dear Lord! soon will I see Thee face to face."

The Good St. Joseph Assists a Faithful Client to Defray a Troublesome Debt.

It was the month of March, which is dedicated to St. Joseph. It occurred to M. de Sonis that this celestial friend of the family hearth might aid him in a certain financial difficulty, and he promised to make a novena every year of thanksgiving if he granted his request. This was that during the present month the sum of money required would be forthcoming. The next day when writing to a friend of his—M. de Melcian d'Arc, also a good Catholic—he told him confidentially of the promise he had made. The friend was full of sympathy, and greatly admired the sentiments of the letter, every word of which evinced the most lively faith.

He in turn confided the facts to a pious and wealthy friend. "Well," said the latter, "this is the first mission with which St. Joseph ever honored me, and I will not refuse it. Do not say a word. To-morrow I will send 7,000 francs to the brave and good Col. de Sonis, as if it came from St. Joseph." And, sure enough, the money went with no other letter or explanation save a slip on which read, "*From St. Joseph.*" The secret was kept for some years. M. de Sonis thanked St. Joseph faithfully, entirely ignorant of the instrument he had chosen. One day, however, it came to him that M. de Melcian had had something to do with it. The latter, not wishing to be credited with what he did not deserve, related the story to M. de Sonis. Confused, yet full of gratitude, the good man wrote an admirable letter in which he expressed his feelings to the medium selected by the dear Saint. M. de Sonis (now a General) looked upon the debt as an obligation of justice and, despite the refusal of his benefactor, he never stopped—even at the cost of repeated sacrifices—until he had accumulated it all. Then he hastened to pay the generous emissary selected by the dear St. Joseph to aid him in his hour of need.—*FROM Chroniques du Carmel*, BY S. X. B.