

yard even at the eleventh hour, for this may be their last Lent on earth. Let them be "not unwise but as wise, redeeming the time" the precious time which they have lost. Let the intensity of their sorrow, and the fervour of their love atone for the heartless ingratitude of the past. Let each poor sinner cry out before it be too late :

"Convert me, O God, and I shall be converted.

"Heal my soul, because I have sinned to thee.

"I will arise, and I will return to my Father."

Ceremony of Blessing the Rose.

The Roman Pontiffs have long been accustomed, on the 4th Sunday in Lent, on which the church sings in the Introit, *Lætare Jeru salem*, to bless a golden rose; and to present it, after a solemn high mass, to some great prince, if there happens to be such a personage at the Roman court. If not, the rose is sent to some king or prince, according to the pleasure of the Holy Father : but the Pope is accustomed previously to consult the cardinals, as to whom he shall present the rose. A small altar is prepared for the occasion, near the place whence the Pope takes his vestments, and, upon the altar, are placed two candlesticks. The Pope, vested with an alb, girdle, stole, cope and mitre, approaches this altar, and, taking off his mitre, says :

V. Our help is in the name of the Lord.

R. Who made heaven and earth.

R. Our Lord be with you.

LET US PRAY.

O God, by whose word and power all things were made, and by whose nod all things are directed; thou who art the joy and delight of all the faithful: we humbly beseech thy majesty, that in thy mercy thou wouldst vouchsafe to bless ✠ and sanctify this rose most pleasing to the sight and smell, which we this day bear in our hands, in token of spiritual joy, that the people devoted to thee, being brought forth from the yoke of Babylonian captivity, by the grace of thy only-begotten Son, who is the glory and exultation of thy people Israel, of that Jerusalem which is above, our mother, may exhibit joy again with sincere hearts, and as thy church, in honour of thy name, exults and rejoices in this sign this day; do thou O Lord bestow upon her true and perfect joy, and, accepting her devotion, remit her sins, fill her with faith, cherish her with forgiveness, protect her with mercy, destroy all adversity, and grant her all prosperity: so that, by the fruit of good works, she may pass on to the odour of the ointments of that flower, which, produced from the root of Jesus, is mystically proclaimed to be the flower of the field and the lily of the valleys: with whom, in glory above, may she rejoice with all the saints without end. Who lives and reigns, &c.'

After this prayer his Holiness anoints the golden rose with balsam and scatters over it a little musk; he then sprinkles it with holy water and incenses it. During these ceremonies the rose is held by a clerk of the Camera apos, tolica, who now gives it into the hand of the Cardinal Deacon, who stands on the right, and he gives it to the Pope, who carrying the rose in his left hand, and giving his benediction with his right, proceeds to the chapel, his cope being held up, on each side, by a Cardinal Deacon. When he