

the white alb of divine graces which will envelop the expected heir. Her words and example shall from day to day embroider the ornaments of faith and virtue that will clothe his earliest years. She will often accompany him to the Holy Table that he may draw therefrom the desire to mount higher. Step by step, she will conduct him to the doors of the Seminary. At the hour of separation, Mary, who knows the pangs of a mother's heart, will gather up the blood of her sacrifice to unite it to that which she herself offered with the blood of Jesus on the Cross. The sufferings of the mother must perfect the immolation of sons!

In the transfiguration of Thabor, she contemplates him at last saying his first Mass. Her head is bowed under his filial benediction, the fingers embalmed by the Holy Unction will dry the tears of joy that flow from her eyes. Trembling with sweetest emotion, the hands of the new priest have given Communion to his mother. Some day—may it be far off!—trembling still more,—and this time with grief—they will bear to her the Holy Viaticum, and close her eyelids to the visions of earth. When the other children born of her pain shall have forgotten her in their new affections and ties, a priestly prayer will be sent up for her soul from a heart faithful to its only love, and will long continue to accompany her upon the road of eternity. Like the priest, she will there be distinguished by a splendor that will shine forever, *in æternum*. God has laid up for her a crown of glory which He owes to mothers through whom His priesthood saves the earth and peoples heaven.

