

Virgin Mary, and the signal proofs which God has been pleased daily to give of the power of her intercession, have induced Us to request the Sovereign Pontiff to declare St. Ann the special Patroness of the Ecclesiastical and Civil Province of Quebec. By a rescript of the 7th May 1876, the Holy Father has vouchsafed to grant this favor, without prejudice however to the title which, for the last two hundred and fifty years, St. Joseph possesses as Patron of all Canada, and consequently, according to the rules of liturgy, the office of St. Ann has been necessarily raised for our Province to the rank of first class, with octave and solemnity. Henceforth then, we may and ought to invoke St. Ann with special confidence as our Patroness and protectress.

Two hundred years ago the illustrious François de Laval-Montmorency, after twenty years of episcopacy, affirmed that the inhabitants of this country were distinguished among all other nations for their devotion towards St. Ann. The numerous altars and sanctuaries dedicated under her name, the ever-increasing multitude of pilgrims who repair thither, and the signal graces there received, clearly show that this devotion is always dear to your hearts, and this new favor of the Sovereign Pontiff cannot fail to augment it.

That you may the better understand and value this favor, we propose to-day, O. D. B. B., to lay before you, as briefly as possible, the teaching of the Catholic Church on the worship and intercession of Saints.

I. WORSHIP DUE TO GOD ALONE.

Moses, addressing the Jews in the desert, recalls to them that God is one, and that He is worthy of all our love: *Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord. Thou shalt love the Lord thy God, with thy whole heart, and with thy whole soul, and with thy whole strength: Audi, Israel, Dominus Deus noster Dominus unus est. Diliges Dominum Deum tuum ex toto corde tuo et ex tota anima tua et ex tota fortitudine tua* (Deut. VI, 4