

cation ! In heaven no Saint has been asked to look after the poor child whose name honors and prays to no Saint. On earth his poor mother cannot say to him : « Thy patron would not have acted thus. » She cannot add : « Invoke thy holy patrons » or : « We shall read the life of thy holy patrons, » for the little one has no holy patrons.

How much wiser was that pious mother who gave to her children the name of the Saint whose feast was celebrated on the day of their birth ; and that other Christian mother who chose as patrons for hers the Saints whom she had most admired while reading holy books !

Fear not, dear parents, that Saints' names will fail you. The priest who baptizes your child has more than two thousand in the Ritual he holds in his hand, and in his other books he would find enough to give a different name to all the faithful in Canada and the United States. Let us therefore banish all those names foreign to our Catholic traditions or to our own language. Let us make it an inviolable rule to give our children the names of Saints and the Saints will make it a sacred duty to be patrons to them. As patrons among the Romans defended and protected the clients whose homage they received every morning, so also do our heavenly patrons, tranquil as to their own fate, make use of their credit with the Lord solely to preserve us from all misfortune and defend us against the innumerable enemies of our souls. As also patrons in the Middle Ages, gloried in training their apprentices to their trades, so also do the elect do themselves honor by teaching us the heavenly trade of holiness and they can have no greater joy than that of seeing us make, under their direction, that masterpiece that is called a *Saint*.

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If we did but know what treasures of grace are to be found in bearing sickness and infirmities in a proper spirit we would receive them with the same joy with which we would receive the greatest benefits.