

The Order, the Scapular and the Hospice of Mt. Carmel.

A SERMON DELIVERED AT THE LAYING OF THE CORNER STONE OF THE HOSPICE ON THE 16TH OF JULY, 1894, BY REV. FATHER RAPHAEL FURR, O. S. F.

Most Rev. Archbishop, Very Rev. and Rev. Fathers, Most Beloved Brethren of the Lady:



IT is indeed a very pleasant and gracious task that I am called upon to perform, to address you on this festive occasion, and thus to contribute—a little at least—to the greater praise and glory of the Mother of God, the Queen of Heaven. Gladly do I lay my mite at the feet of our Lady of Mt. Carmel, whose feast we solemnize to-day, whom to honor you are assembled here from various portions of our country.

You have come to witness the laying of the corner-stone of the Hospice of Mt. Carmel, which will prove a blessing to the Dominion and the States, and which could not and cannot fail to meet with the approbation and encouragement of all who are interested in the salvation of souls. You have come, moreover, to visit that humble and yet so glorious shrine of our Lady of Peace, erected in a locality, where nature most lavishly unfolds its beauty and grandeur, where the Creator Himself has clothed all the surrounding scenery in a garb of transcendent loveliness, "where,"—to use the words of your most beloved Archbishop—"nature itself invites to solemn thought and serious reflections, and where, in very deed, one hears 'The voice of the Lord upon the waters.'" With all right, then, I consider this day one of the happiest and most privileged of my life, being allowed to address you on this solemn occasion, and at this sacred spot,—insignificant though it be in a worldly way, but rich in spiritual benefits to devout worshippers.

May you all, then, as faithful and devout clients of our Blessed Lady of Mt. Carmel, fully avail yourselves of the great spiritual favor granted to this sacred place. May

the visit of this holy spot, where God manifests Himself in such incomparable majesty and grandeur, bring peace and happiness into your souls; may the beautiful rainbow that spans the Cataract, be the sign of peace between God and every christian heart that takes recourse to her to whom that sanctuary yonder is consecrated and to whom this new building will be consecrated, to our Lady of Mt. Carmel.

Dear! Beloved in Christ:

Ever since Mary pronounced the memorable and prophetic words: "Henceforth all generations will call me blessed,"—the faithful of all nations and ranks, of every age and sex, have united in ardent zeal in praising and venerating the Divine Mother.

All arts have entered into the services of the Queen of Heaven. Innumerable churches, chapels,—yea cities, countries and nations, have chosen Mary as their patroness. Countless societies and devotions have been established under her name and assistance. Like a fresh and beautiful wreath of flowers do the numerous festivals of the Blessed Virgin encircle the ecclesiastical year. Who is able to count the prayers that are daily ascending to heaven in honor of the ever-blessed Mother of God? Three times a day does the angelical salutation throughout the world recall, by the sound of the bell, the commemoration of her greatest honor and dignity, as Mother of God. The Rosary announces her honor and praise daily in millions and millions of Catholic homes and families. In the well-known litany she is laden with honors and praise as with so many glittering diamonds, so many precious and shining stones.

Every day witnesses the fulfillment of her prophetic words: "Behold! from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed." Ever new and fresh garlands does faithful Christendom place at the feet of the ever-blessed and gracious Virgin! And among these there is the devotion of which the present festival vividly reminds us, a devotion as simple as it is powerful. A devotion as universal as it is dear to every Catholic heart—the holy devotion of the Scapular of our Lady of Mount Carmel, a devotion, in which more or less culminates the veneration of the ever-blessed Virgin.

No doubt you all enjoy the great honor of being enrolled in the Confraternity of the