

until His benign sway has been accepted without limitations by families and their individual members. Catholics must consequently use every endeavour to preserve or to renew the Christian spirit in those lesser societies which meet around the domestic hearth, and which in their aggregate go to make up peoples and nations.

By far the most efficacious means to compass this end is to propagate the devotion to that Blessed Family which was so highly, so divinely honoured as to be able to count a God among its members.

We are now in the month of St. Joseph who was head of the Holy Family upon earth. This is his greatest title to our veneration, and as Foster-father of our Lord we shall during this month sing his praises and invoke his powerful intercession. We shall, furthermore, consider him as the exemplar of the Christian father ruling his household. To the father of the family he sets the example of self-denial, of disinterested devotedness, of implicit trust in Divine Providence. In studying this his model, the head of the Christian home will learn to temper his authority with meekness, to be a peaceful and beneficent ruler, and not a tyrant in his little kingdom.

The Christian mother will strive to imitate Mary's more hidden, less transcendent, but not the less admirable virtues in her own inner life, for those virtues made of Nazareth the abode of peace, of unalterable sweetness and of piety the most gentle and attractive.

The *education* of Jesus will prove another subject of most consoling and instructive meditation for Christian parents. From it will they learn to direct the regards and the hearts of their children towards their *little Brother of Nazareth*, and to awaken in them, while yet tender in years, that ingenuous piety which is always so touching and oftentimes so generous.

It was to encourage this devotion that on June 20, 1892,