

as a malediction in Israel. My neighbor scorns me, and Thy temple's gates are closed against me. Oh! do have pity on me. Incline unto my aid, O Lord make haste to help me, and free me from the shame that hangs over me. Bless me, and my child shall be Thine. »

The Father of mercies heard her prayer, and Ann became the mother of the future Mother of God. She was not satisfied with having given life to the Blessed Virgin Mary, with having formed her body ; no, she recalled the words of the Holy Ghost : *Instruct thy child and she shall refresh thee, and shall give delight to thy soul.* (Prov. XXIX. 17.) She who had suffered so much, believed the word of God. That infant had a soul, and that soul had to be instructed. Her own heart would find peace and delight in educating her child. Henceforth, her affections, all her attentions were to be centred in that gift of her Creator, gift which she had promised to consecrate to God's service. One can easily understand the maternal solicitude with which St. Ann surrounded her child's infancy. That incessant care to form her heart to virtue, to teach her humility and docility, to make her love all that is pure and noble !

How were her efforts rewarded? Her daughter's glory is now her own. St. Ann moulded her child's heart so well, that God was pleased to make it His dwelling place : *and Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, was conceived by the Holy Ghost, and born of the Virgin Mary.* St. Ann had instructed her child in the Law of God, and her child refreshed her heart and gave delight to her soul. (Prov.)

Not long ago, a subscriber wrote asking for a few lines on St. Ann's life, that she might be able to make her known to others. In doing so, she hoped to spread her devotion among her friends, convinced that they would derive great benefit from it. — One of the marks of true devotion to a saint, is the imitation of the saint's virtues. Well, all christian mothers should profess a sincere devotion to St. Ann ; she is their patroness. God placed her as a model before their eyes, that they might imitate her. In what should that imitation consist? Like St. Ann, they should devote all their time to the *spiritual* education of their children. When the child is still in the