

moral order and we know who and what has wrought it. Its adequate explanation is found in the incarnate Christ alone. It is the effect of His divine power, a blossom of that supernatural faith which, in the language of the Council of Trent, is "the root and foundation of all justification." It is another proof of the divinity of Christ and of his Church.

And so again we hail thee, O Agnes, thou miracle of grace, sweet patroness of this parish and of this people, and say, blessed be thy name ! Blessed art thou, white rose of the fourth century, turned into crimson by thy own martyr's blood. From heaven extend over all of us thy saintly hands in benediction ! Bless the fathers and the mothers of this congregation, that they may bring up their children like unto thee ! Bless the little children, that they may imitate the purity of thy life and thy fearlessness in professing the faith of their fathers ; and bless him, too, who to-day begins the duty of guiding this flock on the narrow way that leads to the abode of the beatified, in which thou shinest as a most brilliant star ! May the blessing of St. Agnes and of her divine Spouse, Jesus Christ, descend on you and abide with you forever !

*Amen.*