

tion, welcomes us to come and partake with her of the heavenly joys which Christmas will provide for us all.

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DURING this season of Advent we are also invited by the Church to pay a visit to the Holy House of Nazareth. The Virgin who inhabits it is espoused to a man named Joseph, and the name of the Virgin is Mary. The angel who stands before the face of the Most High has announced to her the wonderful mysteries of her motherhood. She is in prayerful Expectation of the fullness of time, when the Son of the Most High shall be born of her and the word of God shall become flesh. The house which shelters her will be the home of Jesus for thirty years. Holy house indeed, which by divine power to escape profanation has been brought to Loretto in Italy. It is now called the Holy House of Loretto, and although we may not have the Blessed privilege of visiting it, we must not forget to be there in spirit on the day of the feast of Our Lady of Loretto.

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IN one of the newly formed piazzas of the beautiful city of Florence in Italy there is a convent of Carmelite Nuns. There are 43 nuns living in it. The convent is new and the chapel unfinished. But the chapel contains a great treasure, the body of St. Mary Magdalen de Pazzi, who was once a member of this selfsame community. The good nuns, as all other religious communities of Italy, have been gradually forced out of their old convent. Part of it had been taken from them to make a public school of it, then, when they complained of the injustice of being deprived of the necessary room and quiet, they were assigned another building, somewhat larger, but so dilapidated that at the time of the earthquake a few years ago it became uninhabitable. The Italian Government, however, paid no heed to the danger of the community, and the nuns found themselves compelled to purchase a site and build a new monastery for themselves. They are in a condition of extreme poverty and can hardly pay the interest on the heavy debt incurred. But one consolation was afforded them. They obtained the necessary permission to take the incorrupt body of St. Mary Magdalen with them to their new

chapel. It is true, the translation of this precious treasure could not be made with the pomp and solemnity due to it—it was done secretly in the dark hours of the night in order to escape insult and profanation—but the saint rests among her own, under the altar of the poor, unpretentious chapel of the new convent. The body is still intact, entire and without a trace of decay.

NEW BOOKS.

THE Redemptorist Fathers of 173 East 3rd street, New York, have published a second edition of the life of the holy brother of their congregation, Bl. Gerard Maggilla. The book is handsomely bound in cloth, red edges, printed on finely calendered paper, and is a work well worth buying. It is being sold at 75 cents a copy, which is just half what it is worth, and special rates are made for those ordering a dozen. Such may be had for 50 cents each. The life of Bl. Gerard is ably translated from the German of Rev. Chas. Dilgkron, C. SS. R., and is a most interesting work. Religious communities would do well to order it for spiritual reading, as it is a life of a perfect religious and is so charmingly told that one is entertained as if by a story, while edited by a saintly life. Orders can be sent direct to Redemptorist-Fathers, 173 East 3rd Street, New York.

OBITUARY.

WE earnestly recommend to the pious prayers of our charitable readers the repose of the souls of the following: Miss May Callaban, London, Ont.; Edward P. Fullen, Paterson, N. J.; Mrs. H. McNamara, who died at Thorold, Ont., on Sept. 24th, 1896; Miss Marg. Kelly, one of our solicitors, who died Oct. 13th, 1896, at Newark, N. J.; Mrs. M. A. McHugh, Philadelphia, Pa.; Miss Katie Brannon, who died Oct. 25th, 1896, at Philadelphia, Pa.; Mrs. Bridget Carberry, Worcester, Mass.; Patrick Gannon, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Aug. Vollmer, died Oct. 18th, 1896, at Pittsburg, Pa.; Mrs. J. Keogh, Guelph, Ont.; Mr. John J. Ryan, of Rochester, N. Y.; Mr. and Mrs. John Downey, Dunkirk, N. Y.; Mr. Thomas Cummings, Dunkirk, N. Y.; Joseph Bartholomew, died June 21st, 1896, at Chicago, Ill.; Miss Louise O'Brien, died June 5th, 1896, at Andover, Mass.