

view only a flowery arbor. Gently the Apostles laid down the mortal remains of Mary, and doing so they wept.

For three days the sacred concert was kept up by the heavenly spirits as though to soothe Mary's last sleep. One of the apostles, returning from a distant country, and not having been present at the death of the Blessed Virgin, arrived just then. It was saint Thomas, the same who had placed his hand in the wounds of His glorified Master. He desired to take a last look and to water with his tears the cold remains of the Virgin who had borne in her chaste womb the Supreme Master of nature. Overcome by his entreaties and tears, the others removed the stone from the door of the sepulchre, but they found within only the still fresh flowers whereon the body had reposed and the white shroud of Egyptian linen which shed a delicious fragrance. The pure body of the Immaculate Virgin was not to see decay ; during her life earth and heaven each had a share in that wondrous creature ; after her death, heaven took all, and glorified all.

PROMISE MADE BY OUR LORD TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN  
IN FAVOR OF THOSE WHO HONOR HER HOLY DEATH.

One day the Blessed Virgin addressed the following words to Venerable Sister Mary of Jesus : Daughter, I wish to tell thee of the signal privilege granted me by my divine Son at the moment of my departure from the earth. Thou knowest how His Divine Majesty left me free either to undergo death, or to pass directly from terrestrial life to the unending vision of God ; so that, had I refused to die, my choice would have been ratified by the Most High, since, never having been under the empire of sin, I was in no way subjected to its penalty : death. However, of my free will, I chose it, the more closely to follow and imitate my adorable Son who willed, by His passion and death, to make atonement to God's justice for the sins of men.

Hence, so pleasing to Him was my choice that He recompensed it on the spot by granting, at my petition, the following signal favor to all the children of Holy Church, namely, that of giving into my special care, at the hour of death, all my clients who, at that moment, invoke and choose me for their advocate with God, in memory of