

voice in singing the praises of the Almighty ; she anxiously encourages the work of the painter, that his productions may ever speak of devotion to the eyes and hearts of her children ; she gladly favors the architect, that he may be enabled to erect those majestic churches and cathedrals, which, in all countries of the earth, are the glory of the Catholic Church, which has ever been, still is, and ever shall be, the mother, the queen, and protectress of all arts and sciences. She suspends on the summits of our churches those grand and delightful instruments whose majestic voices fill the ear with solemn harmony, and publish for miles around, and to the very clouds, the glory of our God. It has been said that "the bell is the greatest creation of the Church's genius, the greatest in its power, the greatest in its grandeur, the greatest in its simplicity and its lasting effect upon the people." Consequently it is, that next after the ceremony of dedicating a temple to the worship of God,—consecrating the altar upon which the Body and Blood of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ are laid,—of the blessing of the lips and anointing of the hands that call him down from heaven, and distribute him for the life and strength of his earthly brethren,—the most touching, the most solemn, of the ceremonies of the Church, is the ceremony of the blessing of the bell. First are recited the Psalms of David, psalms that express those feelings of devotion which that bell is designed to awaken ; psalms that cry out to God for mercy ; psalms filled with hope that our cry will be heard, and the mercy which we need will be imparted. The bell is then washed within and without with water that has received the Church's special benediction. Then are psalms and prayers recited, imploring the protection of Heaven

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