

taught the disciples how to pray, how to call upon God as their Father, inspiring them thus with confidence and love for God and His ever watchful Providence. But, lest the majesty of the Most High, even when veiled under the features of a loving Father, might still seem too awe-inspiring for the erring soul or the repentant sinner, He willed that all Christians should be able to call upon His own Mother as the Mother of Mercy. And so since the dawn of Christianity has she been invoked by the faithful of Christ in every necessity: in perils of body and in the dangers of the soul; in grief and sorrow through temporal bereavement and in excess of anguish at the loss of God's grace. She has been called upon in prosperity and adversity, in health and sickness, in youth and old age. Kings and queens on their thrones have done her homage, while the beggar and the outcast have not been afraid to lift up their voice to her. Pontiffs have bowed in reverence before her; Saints, and Doctors, and Fathers of the Church have proclaimed her glory, and sinners, nigh deprived of hope, have exalted her mercy. The babe just born into the world has been placed under her motherly protection, and the dying Christian has besought her to stand him in good stead at the awful judgment-seat of her Son. All have honoured her by their prayers and more by imitating the example of her virtues in the quiet of domestic life, in the accomplishment of the duties of religion, in the hour of consolation and sweet communing with God and in bearing the numberless sacrifices which beset the royal road of the Cross. One and all have ever striven to learn from her maternal lips the one, great, all-important lesson of love for JESUS their "Elder Brother."

And what was it that inspired them with that never failing confidence? The certainty that as a mother she is willing, even when not called upon, to come to the help, to fly to the rescue of her child. They know that she has that will, and that amidst the happiness of heaven she does