

you as a mother by her Divine Son. Yes, she is mother, and the mother of all mankind. But amongst children of the same mother, there are whose conduct renders them more dear and amiable, so we may be persuaded, that those persons who distinguished for a love of purity, are, in a more particular manner, the children of the holy Virgin, may reckon upon her tenderness and liberality more than the other faithful.

“Yes,” says St. Jerome, “Mary being a virgin, is a particular reason why she should show herself the mother of virgins.” The resemblance which they bear her, and by a virtue which is her glory, to which, according to St. Jerome, she is indebted for her dignity of mother of God, fills her with more tenderness and affection for chaste souls.

And, as those who are most attached to the practice of this virtue, have in general more devotion, esteem, and love for the holy virgin, whom they look upon as their queen, their protectress, their model, and their tender mother; so, by a happy return, have they not a right to expect, on her part, all the marks of bounty and protection with which she favors those persons who are dear to her, both by the virtues which they practice, and their attachment to her.

Apply, then, with the fullest confidence to this tender mother.