

human race to feel deep gratitude toward them. He further covered them with glory in our eyes. We would admire them less, would be less indebted to them had Mary's birth cost them nothing » (1).

« What does the name, Joachim, mean? »

« Joachim, says St. Epiphanius, means *The Lord's Preparation*, because by him was prepared the temple of the Lord, namely the Virgin; and Anne means *Grace* (love, prayer,) because she and her husband obtained by their prayers the grace of producing a fruit such as the Blessed Virgin Mary. For Joachim prayed on the mountain and Anne in her garden. »

« Whence do St. Joachim and St. Anne derive their glory? »

« As Mary derives her glory from her title of Mother of the Son of God, so also do her parents owe their greatness, their sanctity and their merits to Mary, their daughter, and to Jesus Christ, their grandson. The Blessed Virgin does not derive her nobility from her parents; they, on the contrary, are ennobled by her. And probably it was in order to make us better observe this reflection of the glory of the daughter upon the person of her parents, that we have seen their glory shine forth only long after that of the august Mary had been admired! Demosthenes said to Philip of Macedon: « It sufficeth thee, for thy glory, that thou hast had Alexander for a son. » It suffices Mary, for her glory, that she has had Jesus-Christ for a son. It suffices St. Joachim, for his glory, that he has had Mary for a daughter. His praise may be resumed in these words: « *Father of Mary, Grandfather of Jesus Christ.* »

« Could you, father, indicate some motives to lead us to place our confidence in St. Joachim and St. Anne and to pay them our homage? »

« Here are some. After Mary and Joseph, nobody on earth has been raised to a dignity more sublime than that attained by St. Joachim and St. Anne. They gave birth to her who was destined to give the world a Saviour; they were her protectors and her guides. No saint, after the mother of the

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(1) *Manual of devotion to St. Anne* p. 93.