

by the Incarnate Word to uplift the human race. Should we include therein the benefits of the natural order, such as those 'health, riches, talent? Perhaps, at least in the measure to which Providence has assigned them for eternal salvation. In itself, the grace of Christ is grace supernatural, that which elevates man and renders him capable of meriting and of obtaining the intuitive vision, the beatific enjoyment of God.

This grace is at once a new life communicated to the soul, and a help to act in view of salvation. The Blessed Virgin partakes in the bestowal of these two graces. And, for sanctifying grace she intervenes by several rights : this grace of adoption unites and incorporates us with Jesus Christ to such a degree that we make but one moral person with Him ; so that the Mother of the Redeemer becomes the Mother of all those whom grace incorporates into her Son.

By her we receive all supernatural benefits, not only some, but all. This is the difference between the role of the Blessed Virgin and that of the other saints. All of the others have a limited sphere of action ; and personally each one intervenes in favor of such a man and not in favor of all, in such a particular case, not in all cases.

When we have not invoked a saint, to whose protection we have no special title, he has not necessarily a part in the graces we have gained. If we pray to Saint Anthony without thinking of Saint Bernard, the grace obtained is probably independent of the intervention of Saint Bernard ; we would have received the same grace and in the same manner had Saint Bernard never existed. Each one of the Blessed beholds a multitude of graces descending upon the world, for which they have done nothing personally to procure for mankind.

To the contrary, the Blessed Virgin has had a part in the grace obtained by Saint Anthony, even if we had not thought of praying to her ; we would not have obtained the same grace if the Blessed Virgin had not existed, and if she had not intervened for us. Our Lord is always implicitly invoked as necessary Mediator, without whom, neither the angels nor the Saints can do anything for us. In the same way, the Blessed Virgin exercises universal mediation in the distribution of graces. Not one