

Jesus said to his disciples. Whom do you say that I am?

Simon Peter answered and said: Thou art Christ the Son of the living God.

And Jesus answering, said to him Blessed art thou Simon Bar-Jona because flesh and blood hath not revealed it to thee, but my Father who is in heaven. AND I SAY TO THEE THAT THOU ART PETER, AND UPON THIS ROCK I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH, AND THE GATES OF HELL SHALL NOT PREVAIL AGAINST IT.

AND I SHALL GIVE TO THEE THE KEYS OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN. AND WHATSOEVER THOU SHALT BIND UPON EARTH, IT SHALL BE BOUND ALSO IN HEAVEN, AND WHATSOEVER THOU SHALT LOOSE ON EARTH SHALL BE LOOSE ALSO IN HEAVEN. S. Matthew xvi. 15-19.



“Was anything concealed from PETER, who was styled the Rock on which the Church was built, who received the Keys of the Kingdom of Heaven, and the power of loosing and binding in Heaven and on earth?”

—TERTULLIAN Præscrip. xxii.

“There is one God, and one Church, and one Christ founded by the voice of the Lord upon PETER. That any other Altar be erected, or a new Priesthood established, besides that one Altar, and one Priesthood, is impossible. Whosoever gathers elsewhere, scatters. Whatever is devised by human frenzy, in violation of the Divine Ordinance, is adulterous, impious, sacrilegious.”—St. Cyprian Ep. 43 ad plebem.

“All of them remaining silent, for the doctrine was beyond the reach of man, PETER the Prince of the Apostles and the supreme herald of the Church, not following his own inventions, nor persuaded by human reasoning, but enlightened by the Father, says to him: *Thou art Christ, and not this alone, but the Son of the living God.*—St. Cyril of Jerusal. Cat. xi. 1.

Calendar.

- APRIL 29—Sunday—III Sunday after Easter Patronage of St. Joseph 2 cl
- 30—Monday—St. Catherine of Siena V 2 cl
- MAY 1—Tuesday—SS Philip and James Apost 2d class.
- 2—Wednesday—St. Athanasius B C Doct
- 3—Thursday—Finding of the Holy Cross 2d cl cum of St. Eventus V M
- 4—Friday—St. Monica Widow doub.
- 5—Saturday—St. Pius V P C doub.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTICE OF MRS. SETON, FOUNDESS AND FIRST SUPERIOR OF THE SISTERS OF CHARITY IN THE UNITED STATES.

(Concluded).

The time had now arrived when it pleased the Almighty to extend the sphere of charity in which her daughters were engaged, by calling some members of the community to the care and education of the orphan. Rev'd Mr. Hurley having been deputed by the trustees of Trinity Church, Philadelphia, to obtain the services of the sisters for their asylum, which until then had been under the conduct of a matron, the superior readily acceded to their request and notwithstanding the threatening aspect of the times, (it being the year of the embargo,) on the 29th of September, 1814, three sisters left the mother house and proceeded by land to Philadelphia, for the purpose of becoming mothers to the helpless female orphans who were to be placed under their charge. This establishment is the second in order of priority that was confided to the care of the sisters, for Mount St. Mary's seminary had already enjoyed the advantages of their services for the care of the sick and the superintendance of the household department.

Two years after the sisters had commenced their labors in Philadelphia, Mrs. Seton was visited by a severe trial in the death of her youngest daughter, who in 1812 had received an injury from a fall on the ice, and had been from that period a constant sufferer for the space of four years and nine months. She died on the 2d of November, 1816. The resignation and piety with which she bore her painful afflictions, edified the whole community.

About this period the most Rev. Archbishop paid several visits to the valley, and always left it with increased admiration, edified by all that he had heard and seen. And who is there that has not received the same impressions? Who has ever visited that mountain and valley consecrated to Mary and Joseph, and witnessed the fervent piety of those who dwell there, their sacred avocations, their holy and good works, one unceasing tribute of praise and adoration to their Maker, without feeling that it is a hallowed spot, one upon which God has poured out his choicest blessings and where his divine spirit loves to dwell? Who has ever visited that interesting institution at St. Joseph's, with a spirit however troubled, a heart however sad, that has not felt the soothing influence of the charity and holiness which pervade it, and has not left it with increased impressions of the peace and consolation which virtue awards to her generous followers? Few leave it, we venture to say, without casting a look of regret behind and envying the happiness of those whose lot has been cast in its tranquil solitude. But trials enter there too, at least such as the servants of God themselves are destined to experience, and full and ample was the measure allotted to her whose memory is cherished and whose name is blest, both in that abode still bright with the reflection of her sainted career, but in the remotest parts

of the United States, where the devoted charity of her daughters is active in its work of benevolence. One by one she laid in the grave those whom she loved; first her two sisters, who had severed every other tie and clung to her as the instrument of their salvation, their angel-guide to eternal happiness; then a daughter, her eldest, gifted with talents, graces and virtues, such as fall to the lot only of a few; and lastly, her youngest child, her innocent and pious Rebecca. If, while day by day and night after night she watched the protracted agonies of her dying child, her resignation to the will of God never failed her, and her fortitude relaxed nothing of its energy, let it not be attributed to a want of maternal love in her, who, prompted as much by the purest benevolence as by a desire to please God, had devoted herself entirely to the care of the orphan, the sick and the poor; and whose warm and generous heart expanded with love towards all, even the least attractive of her fellow creatures. Deep and bitter indeed was her interior grief; but she united it to that of the blessed mother of God, and through the intercession of the Queen of Heaven and comforter of the afflicted, she found strength and consolation in bowing calmly to the will of heaven. That the holy will of God should be accomplished was her constant prayer. “Thy will be done,” was always in her heart and daily on her lips, and with this disposition she did not find it difficult to resign into the hands of the Almighty those whom she had taught to aspire continually to a happier and a better world.

In 1817 an application was made from the city of New York requesting the sisters of charity to take charge of an orphan asylum. Full of zeal for the glory of God and of love for her fellow-creatures, Mrs. Seton rejoiced in being thus able to contribute to the advancement of his kingdom in the souls of those helpless beings. Before sending forth her spiritual children on this mission she gave them such instructions as her experience and correct judgment, as well as her piety suggested, recommending to them a spirit of union and charity, fidelity to the rules, and a great kindness and gentleness of manner. How they complied with the instructions of their enlightened superior may be gathered from the important services which they rendered to religion in the city of New York, and from the many flourishing establishments which they still have charge of in that place.

In her correspondence with the absent sisters, Mother Seton evinced the same thoughtful and tender affection that she manifested towards those around her. But the society over which she presided was soon to be deprived of her invaluable services and holy example. Early in 1819 she was confined to her room for several weeks by a severe attack of pulmonary inflammation, from which she had not perfectly recovered, when she again exposed her health by a walk over the premises. It was on this occasion she pointed out to the sisters who were with her, the site of a new chapel, the erection of which had been for years the object of her fondest wishes. From that day also her infirmities increased. During her illness she frequently assembled her spiritual daughters round her bed, and exhorted them to a faithful observance of their rules, as the surest means of promoting the divine honor and their own sanctification. When in the progress of her disease it became advisable to

* On the spot selected by Mother Seton, now stands the spacious and beautiful church, which was consecrated in May, 1831.

administer the last rites of religion, on preparation was necessary to communicate this intelligence to Mother Seton. She had consecrated to God every feeling of her heart, every aspiration of her soul, every action of her life, from the period that he called her in so signal a manner to his service, and as a reward of her fidelity he gave her his peace, that peace which the world cannot give, and which enabled her to await with composure the moment of her earthly dissolution. Surrounded by her sorrowing community, she alone remained unmoved, beseeching them to moderate their grief and humbly submit to the will of their divine master. She united with the most exemplary dispositions in the prayers that were offered for her, after which, again calling the sisters round her, she urged upon them the duties of mutual support and charity, of loving one another and remaining firm in the observance of their rule, and implored pardon from all for whatever offence or scandal she might have given them. On the night preceding her death two sisters remained with her, one of whom had been her constant companion through all the scene of her sufferings. Towards the approach of morning her symptoms were evidently more alarming, though the peace of her soul remained undisturbed; and about four o'clock she began an act of conformity to the will of God, when the words died away on her lips, and she peacefully expired, on the 4th of January, 1821, in the 46th year of her age.

Such was the close of Mrs. Seton's brief, but saintly career, a death “precious in the sight of the Lord.” Who can advert to the simple mound under which her ashes repose, and not feel the sublimity of Christian virtue! There we behold no sculptured marble, no laudatory inscription; the rough stone with a mere cipher upon it as a reference, and the rose-bush at its side, are the only decorations of her tomb. But oh! how expressive are these badges of unaffected virtue! how loudly do they bespeak the transcendent piety, the brilliant recompense of her, who “accounted all things as filth that she might gain Christ,” and whose life of poverty and humility has been exchanged for the glory and riches of immortality! What a treasure of merit did she accumulate for herself! What a precious inheritance has she bequeathed to her religious in her bright example! A total renunciation of earthly things, an ardent desire to accomplish the will of heaven, a devoted attention to the service of her neighbour; such were the characteristic features in the virtue of Mother Seton, and these traits will always distinguish the life of a true sister of charity. They are the groundwork of that spiritual fabric which she proposes to raise by divorcing herself from the world. By the steady cultivation to these dispositions, the society founded by Mother Seton, has become a source of incalculable blessings to our country. What has attracted within its bosom so many souls thirsting for the refreshing waters that spring up to eternal life? What else has armed them with energy and perseverance in the discharge of their arduous duties? What else has sent them abroad unfearedly amid the vapors of pestilence, and caused them to rush with joy to the assistance of those from whom the rest of the world fled with terror? What else than the sustaining influence of their holy faith, the spirit of self-denial, has wrought and still produces amongst us these wonders of true and practical philanthropy? Numbering nearly three hundred members, St. Joseph's community supplies with charitable labourers thirty eight establishments in various parts of the United States, some dedicated to the

education of youth and the instruction of the poor, others to the care of the orphan and the comfort of the sick. Hastening in every direction to the relief of suffering mortals, their life is a continual struggle against the disasters which arise from indigence and infirmity, and they count the most exalted virtues of humanity among the ordinary actions of their state, fulfilling with a holy joy those works of charity which are most disgusting to human nature, but most honorable in the eyes of religion. In contemplating these glorious fruits of Mother Seton's labors and sacrifices, not only will her children rise up and proclaim her blessed, while they strive to emulate her exalted virtues, society at large will acknowledge with Cardinal Maury, that hers is “the devoted family of Providence, diffusing itself in all parts, to justify on the lips of the unhappy that sublime prayer, the depth of which man can feel and appreciate only in the hour of affliction, when he appeals to God through this tutelary adoption for peace and consolation; *O! Father, who art in heaven.*”

AID FOR THE POPE.

The Freeman's Journal of Monday announces that the parochial collections for the Pope in the Diocese of Meath amounted to 1,260l 2s. 9d. This sum, not only credible but astonishing, considering the circumstances of the people, has been transmitted, together with an address from the Diocese to the Very Rev. Dr. Cullen, President of the Irish College in Rome, for presentation to his Holiness.

On Sunday, the 18th inst., the subscription for the Pope was made in every parish of the Diocese of Ossory. Here, at Freshford, the Clergy and the people have nobly done their duty. In this good work they were well sustained by the generous and truly Catholic-hearted lady, Mrs. Bryan, who presented the Parish Priest with the donation of 100l. for herself and her son and daughter. Her household, animated by the spirit of such an edifying example, generously gave 5l. 13s. 6d. Mrs. Bryan is the relict of the late Colonel Bryan, of Jenkinstown Castle, in the county Kilkenny, and sister to the Countess of Shrewsbury.

The contribution on Sunday in the town of Thurles, was 65l., and at Carrick-on-Suir the sum collected amounted to 68l.

LIMERICK.—The collection for the Pope in Limerick, on Sunday last, amounted to between two and three hundred pounds. St. Michael's parish, including the Friaries, produced 182l. 13s 6d, and which has been handed to the Rev. Mr. Raleigh, the Treasurer of the fund in this diocese. The proceeds of St. Michael's were as follows:—the Parish Chapel, 67l 3s 6d; Dominican, 44l 10s; Franciscan, 42; Augustinian, 32l; including the personal subscription of Mr. Michael Cosac, 10l; Mr. John Spillane, 5l; Mr. Henry O'Shea; Mr. John Quin, 2l.

ROSCREA.—The collection at Roscrea on Sunday the 25th inst., amounted to 36l.

At Waterford 200l was collected for the Pope.

NEW ADVOCATES FOR REPEAL.—Within the last week the depot of the 38th Regiment, quartered in this town, discharged a great number of fine smart young men from further service. On Sunday last, a party of those men after leaving the barrack, tore from their forage caps the number of the regiment, and cheered heartily for the “Repeal of the Union” in Castle-street. We never had much confidence in Whig legislation; and this latter act of theirs for ever crows their want of wisdom.—Castler Telegraph.